GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
TRUTH ALONE TRIUMPHS
75
சுதந்திரத் திருநாள்
அமுதப் பெருவிழா

2022

Government will work with added efficiency

English Translation

The New Year 2022 is born with the hope that joy will prevail, difficulties will vanish and all people will have health and prosperity. At a time when the pandemic, the world is witnessing for the last two years is posing a great challenge to humanity, our Government that has ensured the safety of the people of Tamil Nadu and is functioning for the State's development, is determined to continue welfare works for the people with added efficiency in the coming New Year. By way of fulfilling people's hope in our Government, administrative works will gain a new lustre in the New Year.

I wish that our great Tamil Nadu which gave the humanistic philosophy 'Yaadhum Oore, Yaavarum Kelir' (the whole world is my abode; all people are my relations) prospers in all fields and the world populace overcomes the pandemic and gains in health. I convey my New Year greetings to all the people of Tamil Nadu supporting our Government.

-Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Thiru. M.K. Stalin

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Editor and Publisher
Dr.V.P. Jeyaseelan I.A.S.,
Director of Information &
Public Relations and Ex-officio
Deputy Secretary to Government

Administrative Editor
T. Hariram
Joint Director (Publications)

Joint Editor
A. Maheswari
Asst. Director

Associate Editors
S. Deepa
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Public Relations Officers

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Reporter
S.R.S. Srindar

Senior Artist
R. Samundeeswari

Artist
R. Uma Maheswari

Junior Proof Reader
D. Priya

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"Kudipurang Kaathombi Kutram Kadidhal
Vaduvandru Vendhan Thozhil" -Kural: 549

Protecting the subjects and standing by them, and punishing wrongdoers without thinking that it will bring reproach, is the duty of the ruler.

- From Kalaignar's commentary on the Kural

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First Wrapper

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M. K. Stalin** launched the distribution of Pongal gift hampers, containing 21 items, to celebrate the Thamizhar Thirunalam Pongal festival, at the Secretariat on 04.01.2022.

‘My great work is to make people happy’

English Translation

Happiness overflows the hearts of people when they hear ‘Pongalo Pongal’; they feel a new exhilaration. There is a new happiness. To that extent, the festival of Tamils, ‘Pongal’ has mingled with our flesh and blood and sentiments. The first day of the month of ‘Thai’ is celebrated as the festival of Tamils and the second day is celebrated as ‘Thiruvalluvar Day’. Thus the beginning of the month of ‘Thai ’ is marked by celebration.

That day when ‘Pongal’ is cooked out of the newly harvested grain in a new pot and wearing new attire, has become synonymous with happiness in all the households of Tamils. More than looking at agriculture as an industry, the Tamil race links it with culture. Thiruvalluvar says agriculture is the foremost occupation. Honouring such a class of people and their dear cattle which help them in their work, is also a part of that celebration. In that way, the Pongal festival is all embracing.

As this year has ushered in a new regime, people are happy politically also. I am one among you, elected by you and put in the office of governance. I am dedicating every minute of my time, since assuming responsibility, to you. My great task is to make people happy at all times; I am working with this aim. Excellent schemes have been implemented in just 8 months. I am lauded by neutral persons as someone who has achieved in a few months what will require 5 years to achieve. I am going to celebrate with you this golden regime’s first ‘Thai’ festival.

As Corona is still here, we have to celebrate this festival with discipline. Celebrate it at your house. Don’t gather in public places. We will put a stop to this wave very soon. Till then, you have to safeguard yourself and the Country too.

I extend my good wishes to all of you on this Thamizhar Thirunal, the Day of the Tamil Race, the Day of Happy Pongal, the Day that is dear to Farmers and Day of the life science shown by Thiruvalluvar.

Let us pay obeisance to the Sun! Let us greet Farmers!
Let the soil become fertile! Let people be happy!

-Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Thiru. M.K. Stalin

Hon'ble Chief Minister hands over Pongal gift hampers to beneficiaries, inspects distribution in Fair Price shops

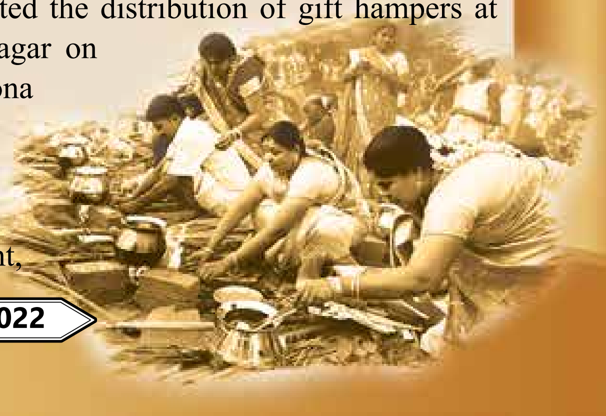
Pongal festival is being celebrated by all people, irrespective of caste, creed and race. It is also a festival of agriculture, which is the fulcrum of the world. It is a cultural festival that signifies the fruits of labour. Apart from agriculture, the festival portrays the sun and cattle, which support agriculture in a big way. The festival reflects the feeling that all Tamils are one race.

To enable Tamils celebrate the Pongal festival happily, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K. Stalin** announced that all rice ration cardholders in the State and the Sri Lankans living in camps, totalling 2.15 crore families would be given a gift hamper, containing Turmeric Powder, Chilli Powder, Coriander Powder, Mustard, Cumin, Ghee, Pepper, Tamarind, Bengal Gram, Green Gram, Urad Dal, Salt, Sooji, Wheat flour, Jaggery, Rice, Cashew nut, Cardamom and Raisins along with a full Sugarcane and a cloth bag, costing totally Rs. 1,296.88 crore.

As per the announcement, the Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurated the distribution of Pongal gift hampers by handing over the gift bag and the sugarcane to 10 families as a token, on behalf of the Co-operation, Food and Consumer Protection Department on 04.01.2022.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister also inspected the distribution of gift hampers at a co-operative fair price shop in Sathya Nagar on 08.01.2022 and also checked whether the Corona guidelines were being followed properly.

A statement was issued by the Hon'ble Chief Minister on 09.01.2022 regarding the distribution of Pongal Gifts. In the statement,



Pongal Gift Hamper - 2022

Sl. No.	List of Items to Rice Card-holders	
	Items	Quantity
1	Raw Rice	1 Kilo gram
2	Jaggery	1 Kilo gram
3	Cashew Nut	50 Gram
4	Raisin	50 Gram
5	Cardamom	10 Gram
6	Green Gram	500 Gram
7	Ghee	100 Gram
8	Turmeric Powder	100 Gram
9	Chilli Powder	100 Gram
10	Coriander Powder	100 Gram
11	Mustard	100 Gram
12	Cumin	100 Gram
13	Pepper	50 Gram
14	Tamarind	200 Gram
15	Bengal Gram	250 Gram
16	Urad Dal	500 Gram
17	Sooji	1 Kilo gram
18	Wheat Flour	1 Kilo gram
19	Salt	500 Gram
20	Cloth bag	One
21.	Full Sugarcane	One

the Hon'ble Chief Minister said that at a time when the people are affected by the Corona pandemic and floods, he had announced that 21 articles would be given to 2.15 crore rice cardholders as a Pongal gift. The Government is giving the gift hamper at a cost of Rs. 1,297 crore despite the severe financial crunch the Government is undergoing, solely with a view to help people celebrate the festival happily.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister said, I inspected the distribution of Pongal Gift to rice cardholders

Thoppai Street, Royapuram

Sathya Nagar

personally. I find the scheme has been well received by the people. But some people are indulging in a mischievous campaign against the scheme. So, for the proper distribution of the gift hamper and to enable all eligible people to receive the gift, I have instructed Hon'ble Ministers, MPs, MLAs, District Collectors and officials concerned to ensure that all get gift hampers with quality products.

In continuation, the Hon'ble Chief Minister inspected the distribution of gift hampers at fair price shops, on 10.01.2022 at Chennai Royapuram, Thoppai Street, New Vannarapettai and Dr.Vijayaraghavalu Street.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister advised the people to follow the Government's Corona guidelines by maintaining social distance and wearing masks while receiving the gifts. ■

Praise for anti-COVID measures, welfare schemes of Government

Hon'ble Governor hails Hon'ble Chief Minister for galvanizing State machinery into action

Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. R.N.Ravi** addressed in the first session of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly for the year 2022, at Kalaivanar Arangam, Chennai, on 05.01.2022.

Hon'ble Members of the Legislative Assembly,

Vanakkam.

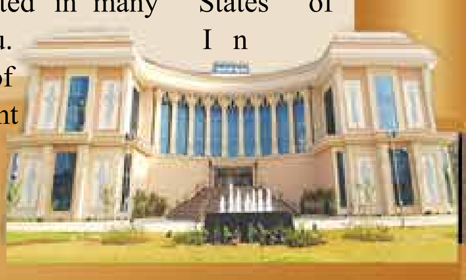
It is a great honour and privilege to deliver my first address to the sixteenth Legislative Assembly in this August House. This House has a glorious heritage and all of you are proud inheritors of this legacy. I take this opportunity to extend my warm greetings for the New Year and Pongal to all members and to the people of Tamil Nadu. I wish that this year brings happiness, prosperity and well-being to the people of the State.

I would like to congratulate the Hon'ble Chief Minister Thiru M.K. Stalin for galvanizing the entire Government machinery and effectively managing the second wave of the Covid pandemic by ramping up health infrastructure, ensuring availability of oxygen and essential drugs, and transforming the vaccination drive into a people's movement immediately after assuming office. The Government's strategy in successfully containing the second wave without significantly affecting people's livelihood and economy has served as a model for the entire Nation.

The Government has taken extensive measures to increase the coverage of vaccination against Covid. Mega vaccination drives are being conducted on a weekly basis throughout the State. When this Government assumed office, the coverage of vaccination was very low, with only 8.09 per cent of the eligible population having been administered the first dose and 2.84 per cent, the second dose. In just seven months, due to the concerted efforts of this Government, the vaccination coverage has been increased to 86.95 per cent for the first dose and 60.71 per cent for the second dose, with a total of 8.55 crore doses being administered. I request the people of Tamil Nadu to continue to co-operate with the Government's efforts to ensure success.

In line with the new policy announced by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 25th December last year, the State has expanded the vaccination programme to cover children in the age group of 15-18 years, and will provide 'precaution dose' for frontline staff, health workers and vulnerable sections above 60 years of age.

Recently, the Omicron variant of Corona virus has been identified and reported in many States of India including Tamil Nadu. In order to prevent the spread of this variant, the Government



has strengthened testing and checking protocols at international airports. Based on the experience gained during the second wave, Tamil Nadu was one of the first States in the Country in establishing facilities for genome sequencing. Further, the Government is augmenting RT-PCR testing facilities, installing oxygen generating PSA plants and increasing ICU beds. The Government is fully prepared to tackle the new variant and the challenges it poses.

The Government is providing Rs.25 lakh ex-gratia to families of frontline workers who lost their lives due to Covid and Rs.5 lakh to children who have lost their parents. Further, the Government of Tamil Nadu has ordered an ex-gratia of Rs.50,000 from the State Disaster Response Fund to the kin of persons who have lost their lives due to Covid. So far, relief has been provided to 27,432 families.

Heeding to the appeal of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, donations from various quarters have poured into the Chief Minister's Public Relief Fund. So far, Rs.543 crore has been received since the Government assumed office and Rs.541.64 crore has been spent towards Covid related activities.

The Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme, which was introduced by Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar, has been expanded with the annual income ceiling limit being increased from Rs.72,000 to Rs.1,20,000. The Government has also extended the insurance scheme to Covid positive patients to avail all types of treatment, free of cost in private hospitals. As a result, 33,117 persons have availed treatment worth Rs.387 crore, so far.

The Government has launched a novel scheme of providing health services at the doorsteps of people, 'Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam'. The scheme was launched with a total outlay of Rs.257 crore to address the increasing incidence of non-communicable diseases such as hypertension and diabetes. So far, 42,99,294 patients have benefited under this scheme.'Varumun Kaapom Thittam', which was launched by Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar, has been revived by this Government and medical camps are being conducted throughout the State under this scheme.

With a noble intention of preventing loss of precious lives due to road accidents, the Government has launched 'Innuyir Kaapom- Nammai Kakkum 48 Thittam'. Through this scheme, the Government will bear the cost for critical care during the first 48 hours after the accident. In the first phase, 609 hospitals have been enrolled in this scheme. So far, 4,482 accident victims have been provided critical care.

Many parts of the State including Chennai witnessed unprecedented rains and flooding during the North East Monsoon. Under the direct supervision of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, there was timely release of surplus water from dams and reservoirs as a precautionary measure. It is praise worthy that the Hon'ble Chief Minister led from the front, personally visiting the affected Districts

and ensuring that immediate relief was provided to the affected people. Due to meticulous planning, deft management and effective supervision, the loss of life has been minimized. However, there has been extensive damage to roads, bridges, water bodies and crops. The Government has submitted detailed memoranda seeking funds to the tune of Rs.6,230 crore to undertake relief and restoration works. We urge that funds from National Disaster Response Fund be released immediately, in order to ameliorate the effects of damage caused by the floods.

In order to suggest permanent measures to prevent inundation in Chennai, an advisory committee has been constituted to give recommendations on long term mitigation and management of flood risk. This Government will

implement the permanent measures recommended by the committee, to prevent inundation and consequent damages.

The Government will distribute a gift hamper for Pongal containing 21 grocery items and sugarcane to all 2.15 crore rice card holders in the State at a total cost of Rs.1,297 crore so that the people, who were

severely impacted by the second wave of Covid and unprecedented rains, can celebrate the Pongal festival with joy.

The GST compensation regime is coming to an end on 30.06.2022. After the introduction of GST, the State was not able to realize the high growth of tax collections that it had witnessed during the VAT regime. The Covid pandemic has further exacerbated this problem. The State's revenues are yet to recover and it would adversely impact the State finances, if the compensation is not extended for at least two more years. Therefore, this Government strongly urges the GST Council and the Union Finance Ministry to continue the GST compensation at least till 30.06.2024.

It is the vision of the Hon'ble Chief Minister to make Tamil Nadu a 'One Trillion Dollar Economy' by the year 2030. The Government has already initiated various programmes and policies to achieve this vision. A detailed action plan titled 'Towards One Trillion Dollar Economy' will be prepared to ensure that this vision is realized. The Government has been taking earnest efforts to improve the ease of doing business and reduce the compliance burden for businesses and citizens. The Hon'ble Chief Minister has launched a new Single Window Portal and a mobile app to facilitate its use. Further, during the last Assembly session, 165 obsolete and redundant Acts were repealed.

In a survey conducted by a popular english weekly, our Chief Minister has been adjudged as 'The Most Popular Chief Minister in the Home State' in India. It is laudable that the Hon'ble Chief Minister has achieved this recognition within such a short span of time after taking charge.

The Government has remained true to the Hon'ble Chief Minister's commitment of providing responsive administration. At the end of the first 100 days of 'Ungal Thoguthiyil Mudhalamaichar' scheme, the Government has successfully redressed 2,29,216 petitions. To continue this good governance practice, the Government has created a separate Department 'Mudhalvarin

Mugavari' under the direct supervision of the Hon'ble Chief Minister by integrating Ungal Thoguthiyil Mudhalamaichar Department with CM Cell.

The Government is committed to uphold the glory of Tamil language. Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar had declared that the song 'Neerarum Kadaludutha', penned by Manonmaniam Sundaranar should be sung as 'Tamizh Thai Vazhthu' in Government programmes. This Government has officially declared 'Tamizh Thai Vazhthu' as Tamil Nadu's State Song and has mandated that it should be sung in an appropriate manner at the beginning of all events in educational institutions, Universities, Government offices and public institutions. Steps will be taken to encourage this practice even in private institutions.

Through the 'Engum Tamizh Edhilum Tamizh' scheme, the usage of Tamil language will be popularized in all Government institutions, private schools, shops and commercial establishments. Necessary guidelines will be framed under the Tamil Nadu Official Language Act, 1956 to implement this scheme. In order to encourage students studying in Tamil medium, 100 text books

in various subjects in professional courses are being translated into Tamil.

The Government has declared January 12 as 'World Tamil Diaspora Day' which will be marked by special events every year. Steps will be taken to bring together all Tamil welfare associations in different Countries and in other States of India on a single platform. This will help the Non-Resident Tamils to be in touch with their roots and also facilitate their investments in the State. The 'Thai Mann' scheme will enable Non-Resident Tamils to participate in the development of infrastructure in their native places.

The Government is committed to promote the welfare of Sri Lankan Tamils living in the State. Orders have been issued for constructing 3,510 houses in the first phase at a cost of Rs.176 crore to improve living

conditions in rehabilitation camps. Further, the Hon'ble Chief Minister has launched several schemes including increase in cash assistance, skill training and scholarships, free clothes and utensils, and free gas connections for Sri Lankan Tamils.

The Government accords highest priority to effective maintenance of Law and Order in the State. Two new Police Commissionerates have been created in Avadi and Tambaram to improve policing in the Greater Chennai region. For their invaluable contribution in the effective management of Covid, 1.17 lakh police personnel were awarded Rs.5,000 each as incentive. This Government places high priority on the safety of women and children. The Tamil Nadu State Policy for Children, 2021 has been launched for the overall well-being of children, particularly to prevent crimes against them. This Government will undertake stringent measures to prevent sale of drugs near educational institutions.

This Government places high priority on the welfare of farmers and development of agriculture. Due to timely desilting of channels, release of water from Mettur dam

as per schedule and implementation of Kuruvai package for Rs.61 crore, a record paddy coverage of 4.9 lakh acres has been achieved in the Kuruvai season this year.

To provide succour to the farmers who suffered paddy crop loss due to the recent torrential rains, the Government has announced a compensation of Rs.6,038 per hectare for purchase of necessary inputs to enable replantation by farmers. Due to continuous efforts of this Government, 25 lakh farmers have been enrolled in the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana and an area of 37 lakh acres of crop has been insured.

This Government is committed to protect and preserve the State's rich biodiversity and natural resources. An ecopark at the ecologically important Pallikaranai marshland was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister. The Hon'ble Chief Minister has launched a people's movement 'Meendum Manjappai' to create awareness about the ills of single-use plastics and revive the age-old tradition of Tamils to live in harmony with nature.

Though Tamil Nadu is endowed with rich mineral resources, the State Government does not realise

adequate revenues from mining. In fact, revenues from mining have stagnated over the last decade. In order to carry out mining in an ecologically sustainable manner and mobilize revenue for Government, a 'Natural Resources Management Plan' will be formulated.

After many years, we were able to store water at the current permissible limit of 142 feet level in Mullai Periyar dam for many days continuously. This Government will take all necessary measures to restore the full reservoir level of 152 feet as per the decreed judgement of the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

While extending constructive co-operation to neighbouring states, Tamil Nadu will continue to fight for its rightful share of river waters. This Government, which is committed to the welfare of farmers, will never allow construction of Meghedatu Dam by Karnataka across Cauvery river.

This Government recognizes the vital role played by livestock sector in supplementing farmers' incomes and providing nutritional security in the rural economy. 7,760 specialized veterinary health care and awareness camps will be conducted to provide free veterinary health care services, particularly in remote villages.

It is the paramount duty of this Government to ensure the livelihood and safety of fishermen. We strongly urge that immediate steps should be taken to release the 68 fishermen and 75 fishing boats belonging to Tamil Nadu, currently in Sri Lankan custody. To find an amicable solution to this persisting issue, we exhort the External Affairs Ministry to take measures to resume direct talks between Indian and Sri Lankan fishermen. To further safeguard our fishermen from natural calamities, this Government plans to establish transponders in all mechanized boats in the State to provide seamless communication systems. The special allowance for fishermen during the fishing lean period has been enhanced from Rs.5,000 to Rs.6,000 per family and an amount of Rs.74 crore has been disbursed to 1.22 lakh fishermen families this year.

The Government is committed to providing quality education for all children. A mission mode programme 'Illam Thedi Kalvi' has been initiated with an initial outlay of around Rs.200 crore to bridge learning losses among students of classes 1 to 8 due to lack of access to structured education during the lockdown. The programme is implemented with the support of volunteers and the community.

This programme is successfully implemented in 12 Districts on a pilot basis and is now being scaled up to the entire State. So far, 80,138 Illam Thedi Kalvi Centres have been started.

A massive grassroot level exercise has been undertaken to bring drop out children back to school. Using a GPS enabled mobile application and with 80,000 surveyors drawn from various Departments, 1,73,792 children have been identified and successfully enrolled in age-appropriate classes.

We are conscious of the fact that the future of a Country is shaped in its classrooms. The Government is promoting the dual language policy by bringing together a passion for mother tongue Tamil and proficiency in the global language English, imbibing values of inclusive growth through social justice for all, developing scientific temper and entrepreneurial spirit for the holistic development of the young generation and create achievers in arts, literature and sports. To realize these lofty ideals, a comprehensive scheme will be implemented over the next five years to modernize the Government schools, which are the backbone of our State's education system.

The Government will set up smart classrooms in all 24,345 Government primary schools, augment infrastructure to accommodate increasing admissions and create high-tech computer, science and language laboratories in all 6,992 middle, high and higher secondary schools. High speed broadband connectivity and well-maintained, clean and hygienic sanitary complexes will be provided in all schools. In addition, refresher training to teachers with the guidance of eminent academicians in the Country and training for development of soft skills of students would be imparted.

This Government is committed to improving the quality of all higher education institutions in the State. Preparations have already commenced to offer high quality IT platforms to benefit students and faculty in all universities, arts and science and engineering colleges. The Government is in the process of revamping the syllabus of higher education courses in consultation with experts to improve employability of students. Efforts will be undertaken to improve curriculum and laboratory facilities in polytechnic colleges with the help of industry partners.

The Government has decided to reimburse all fees including tuition fee, hostel fee and counselling fee to Government school students admitted in professional courses under 7.5 per cent seats allotted on preferential basis. So far, 8,371 students have been benefited. This scheme will be implemented this year at a cost of Rs.181crore.

The Government envisions a data driven decision support infrastructure for improving governance. The 'Data Purity' project aims to analyze data across various Departments and to ensure that the benefits of Government schemes reach the deserving. Implementation of E-Office system is in progress which will enable speedy disposal and efficient management of files, while improving transparency and accountability. A computerized system will be rolled out to effectively manage Government assets using appropriate technologies.

Tamil Nadu is evolving as a hub for data centres and has attracted an investment of around Rs.30,000 crore. With the objective of attracting more investment and to ease the establishment of data centres, the Government has released a new policy, 'The Data Centre Policy, 2021'.

The Government is committed to making Tamil Nadu the most preferred investment destination

in South Asia. Three investment conclaves have been conducted in the last seven months resulting in 109 MoUs being signed with a cumulative investment of Rs.56,230 crore and potential employment generation for 1,74,999 persons. So far, projects to the tune of Rs.21,508 crore have commenced. It is commendable that the State could attract such large investments during the Covid pandemic and is a testimony to the faith reposed by investors on the Government.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has released two new policies -'Tamil Nadu Export Promotion Strategy' and 'Tamil Nadu Fin Tech Policy', which will play a crucial role in achieving a one trillion dollar economy by 2030.

The medical devices industry has been identified as a sunrise sector and in order to develop a comprehensive ecosystem for this industry, the Government is establishing a Medical Devices Park at Oragadam

spanning 150 acres. The State will be a pioneer by setting up the first large scale Furniture Park in the Country over an extent of 1,100 acres at Thoothukudi. The Government has announced an attractive package of incentives for the industrial units coming up in this Park. I am delighted to inform that the first phase of the Park will be launched by the Hon'ble Chief Minister later this month. These two parks will generate employment for around three lakh persons.

The MSME sector is a major contributor to employment and is a vital engine that propels the economic growth of the State. The Government is undertaking several measures to mitigate the Covid–induced crisis and the issue of credit availability to the sector. The Tamil Nadu State Credit Guarantee Scheme, of this Government, will not only encourage commercial banks to lend more to the MSMEs, but also spur

Non Banking Financial Companies to reduce their cost of lending.

The Agro-Industrial Corridor Project will commence next year and will address the industrial infrastructure deficit in Cauvery delta Districts by promoting agro based industries. Tamil Nadu Small Industries Development Corporation Limited has taken up the development of five new industrial estates at a cost of Rs.241 crore. It has also significantly reduced the cost of plots in 31 industrial estates to make them affordable to MSME entrepreneurs.

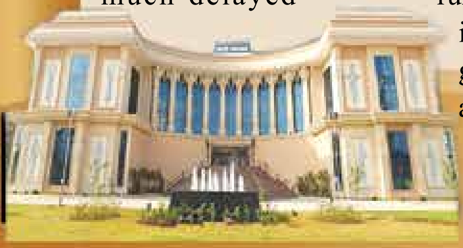
This Government is taking steps to provide latest courses in Government ITIs to train students for emerging industrial sectors in collaboration with national and international agencies.

Recognizing the adverse impact of Covid pandemic on weavers, this Government has cleared the rebate claims of Rs.160 crore pending since the last two years for Weavers' Co-operative Societies. Further, several new initiatives have been undertaken including development of an e-commerce website and 'TNKhadi' mobile app.

In order to address the problem of low voltage and over-loading, and to ensure provision of reliable power supply, 8,905 distribution transformers are being erected throughout the State. In order to help the farmers, the Government has announced that it will provide one lakh new agriculture service connections this year. Despite the nationwide coal shortage and unprecedented rains, the Government's tireless efforts have ensured that power supply was maintained without any interruption.

The Government is focused on strengthening grassroot democracy by empowering local bodies. After assuming office, this Government has successfully conducted the

much-delayed rural local body elections in nine Districts. Further, gram sabha meetings in all village panchayats



were conducted on 2nd October 2021 after a long gap. This Government is undertaking necessary steps to conduct urban local body elections at the earliest.

To ensure holistic development of villages by providing basic amenities and infrastructure, the Government has revived the Anaithu Grama Anna Marumalarchi Thittam. It is being implemented in 1997 Village Panchayats at a cost of Rs.1,200 crore this year. In order to inculcate reading habit and critical thinking, 4,116 libraries are being renovated at a cost of Rs.92 crore. Works to improve infrastructure and basic amenities in 145 Periyar Ninaivu Samathuvapurams constructed during 1997-2001 will be taken up in phases, starting this year.

Tamil Nadu is one of the most urbanised States in the Country. With a view to upgrading infrastructure and enhancing the standard of living in urban areas, the Government has launched the 'Kalaignar Nagarpura Membaatu Thittam' to construct and upgrade civic infrastructure including roads, streetlights, bus stands, crematoria, parks and water bodies with an allocation of Rs.1,000 crore. In order to promote people's participation in developmental schemes, the Government has revived the 'Namakku Naame Thittam'.

In order to increase employment opportunities to the urban poor, the Government has launched the 'Urban Employment Scheme' with an outlay of Rs.100 crore. This scheme will not only act as a social safety net but also aid in creation and maintenance of public assets. So far, 31,620 people have been identified and job cards provided for 18,526 people.

The Government has laid special emphasis on development of the capital city Chennai, by implementing flagship projects such as Singara Chennai 2.0 at an estimated cost of Rs.500 crore, Chennai City Partnership Programme at an estimated cost of USD 430 million, and Chennai Metropolitan Area Intelligent Transport Systems at an estimated cost of Rs.905 crore,which are aimed at transforming civic infrastructure including roads, transport, stormwater drains, water supply and public recreational spots.

It is the vision of the Hon'ble Chief Minister to make Tamil Nadu slum free in the next 10 years. The change in Government's approach from clearance of slums to development of urban habitat and improving livelihoods of urban poor is reflected in the renaming of Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board to Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Board. In order to make houses more affordable to the urban poor, this Government has reduced

the amount of contribution payable by beneficiaries and enabled payment in easy monthly instalments. Further, a new scheme 'Nam Kudiyiruppu Nam Poruppu' is being implemented to ensure proper maintenance of the tenements with the support of Resident Welfare Associations.

The Government is focused on strengthening the road network in the State to promote economic and social growth. Under the Chief Minister's Road Development Programme, works for widening of 894 km of roads at a cost of Rs.2,989 crore have been sanctioned this year. In order to reduce traffic congestion in Chennai, three major works namely, the vehicle underpass on Parangi Malai-Medavakkam Road, Multi-level grade separator on Parangi Malai – Poonamallee-Avadi Road and Grade separator at Madhya Kailash junction at a cost of Rs.407 crore, have been sanctioned by the Government.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister launched the scheme of free bus travel for women, which has resulted in increase in women ridership from 40 per cent to 61 per cent in the past four months. The scheme, which has been widely welcomed, will give a thrust to social and economic empowerment of women. To ensure multi modal integration and facilitate last mile connectivity for commuters, mini bus services have been launched from Chennai Metro Rail stations to different parts of the city.

The Government will formulate a strategy to revitalize tourism-based economy in the State leveraging the glorious history, cultural heritage and pristine natural beauty with which the State is blessed. A new Tourism Policy including components to promote adventure tourism will be released this year.

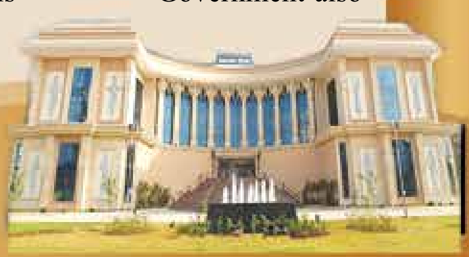
To secure the future of children who have lost both their parents due to Covid, the Government is depositing a sum of Rs.5 lakh in the name of the child in Tamil Nadu Power Finance Corporation. The deposited amount will be paid with accrued interest when the child completes 18 years of age. So far, 287 children have benefited under this scheme. A sum of Rs.3 lakh is given in the name of the child who has lost either of the parents due to Covid as immediate relief. So far, 7,513 children have benefited.

The Government has created a special fund - 'Tamil Nadu Children Victim Compensation Fund' for the rehabilitation of victim children who have been awarded compensation under Protection of Children

from Sexual Offences Act, 2012. So far, 103 children have benefited under this scheme and Rs.2 crore has been disbursed. The Government is taking stern action against perpetrators of sexual offences against children.

In order to empower women, the Self Help Group (SHG) movement was started in Dharmapuri by Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar for the first time in the Country in 1989. The seeds then sown have grown manifold into a massive movement today. During this financial year, 29,425 new SHGs have been formed with 4,02,829 women. The Government will ensure that SHG-Credit Linkage will be more than Rs.20,000 crore this year. So far, an amount of Rs.14,872 crore has been provided to 1,83,096 SHGs as loans by various banks.

In a landmark move fulfilling the dream of Thanthai Periyar and Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar that people of all castes can become archakars, this Government has issued appointment orders to 58 trained archakars belonging to different caste denominations. Since the Government assumed office, 432.82 acres of temple lands at an estimated value of Rs.1,628.61 crore have been retrieved after clearing encroachments. This Government is providing Rs.1,000 as monthly incentive to priests working in 12,959 temples under 'Oru Kaala Poojai' scheme. This Government also ordered that no charges will be collected from



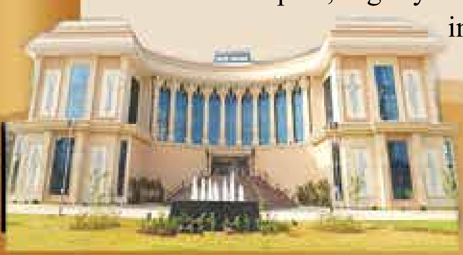
differently abled for conducting their marriages in temples and temple owned marriage halls.

A publication division of Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department (HR and CE) will

be established with state-of-art facilities to bring out books on the history and architecture of temples, and the rich Tamil literature including Bhakti literature. A drive will be launched to preserve the rare palm leaf manuscripts available in temples and mutts. Major temples will be encouraged to have book stalls where in books about the history of temples, heritage, culture and Tamil language will be displayed. Retired officials of Archaeological Survey of India and State Archaeology Department have been appointed as archaeological advisors for conservation, preservation and renovation of ancient temples under the control of HR and CE Department. I sincerely appreciate the Government for taking proactive steps to safeguard temple lands and effectively manage temple assets.

In the recent excavations carried out by State Archaeological Department, it has been scientifically established that 'Thanporunai' civilization, which thrived on the banks of Thamiraparani river, dates back 3200 years. Works will commence shortly to establish a museum with modern facilities to showcase the rare artefacts found in excavations carried out in Adhichanallur, Sivakalai and Korkai. To protect our archaeological heritage, the Government has banned mining activities in the vicinity of archaeological sites and in archaeologically important places.

The core ideology of the Dravidian movement is to ensure self respect, dignity and social justice for every individual, especially those belonging to the marginalized



communities. The Hon'ble Chief Minister's gesture to personally visit the Narikuravar and Irular families in their homes and redress their grievances, speaks volumes about his personal commitment to this cause.

Acting upon a long standing demand, the Government has created the Tamil Nadu State Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, a statutory body with autonomous powers for the protection of rights of these communities.

This Government has taken several steps including increase in allowances, sanctioning of new hostels and initiation of training programmes for the welfare of students belonging to Adi Dravidar, Scheduled Tribes, Backward Classes, Most Backward Classes and Denotified Communities.

The unrelenting efforts of the Hon'ble Chief Minister have made 27 per cent reservation to Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in All India quota for Under Graduate and Post-Graduate medical courses a reality. We will take all necessary steps to ensure that similar reservation is provided in all professional courses

at the All India level. From the days of Justice Party, the State has been at the forefront in upholding the values of social justice and has been guiding other states on the path of humanity and progress. This Government will continue to perform this historical responsibility.

Entrance exams create an unequal platform by being inherently discriminatory against rural students. Hence, this Government is of the firm view that entrance exams like NEET are unnecessary for student admissions to professional courses and will continue to reiterate this position.

This Government is committed to the welfare and development of minorities. The scheme of providing subsidy to pilgrims undertaking Haj and Jerusalem pilgrimage will be continued. The Citizenship Amendment Act has caused concerns amongst minorities and this House has passed a resolution to repeal it. This Government will strive to ensure that this resolution comes to fruition.

The Government is undertaking several measures to improve the livelihood of differently abled persons. With a view to identify suitable job opportunities for them, all Government and private establishments have been directed to publish an equal opportunity policy.

Further, a new Differently Abled Employment and Livelihood Centre has been established to facilitate suitable employment opportunities for their economic empowerment.

This Government is committed to promote sporting talent among the youth of this State. To inspire and encourage sports persons from Tamil Nadu to perform at the international level, the Hon'ble Chief Minister has announced a cash prize of Rs.2 crore and a job to Thiru. Mariappan Thangavelu, silver medallist in the Tokyo Paralympics. To preserve and promote the traditional sport of Silambattam, the discipline has been

included for reservation in Government jobs provided for sports persons.

This Government has faced umpteen challenges after assuming office, be it the Covid second wave or the unprecedented torrential rains. But, it has successfully converted each one of them into landmark achievements. This Government is working tirelessly and we assure that we will continue to work with the same vigour, passion and commitment for the welfare of people.

This Government is committed to the principles of self-respect, social justice, equality, rational thinking and empathy. This Government's path is guided by the thoughts and ideals of noble leaders like Thanthai Periyar, Annal Ambedkar, Perunthalaivar Kamarajar, Perarignar Anna and Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar.

This Government will leave no stone unturned to realize the dreams and aspirations of the people and strive towards making Tamil Nadu the best administered State and a role model not only to other States in the Country, but to the entire South Asian region.

--I would like to again wish everyone a very Happy Pongal and conclude my address with the immortal words of Mahakavi Bharathiyar.

Vazhiya Senthamizh!

Vazhga Natramizhar!

Vazhiya Bharatha Mani Thiru Nadu!

Hon'ble Chief Minister envisions a Tamil Nadu that serves as a role model in every field

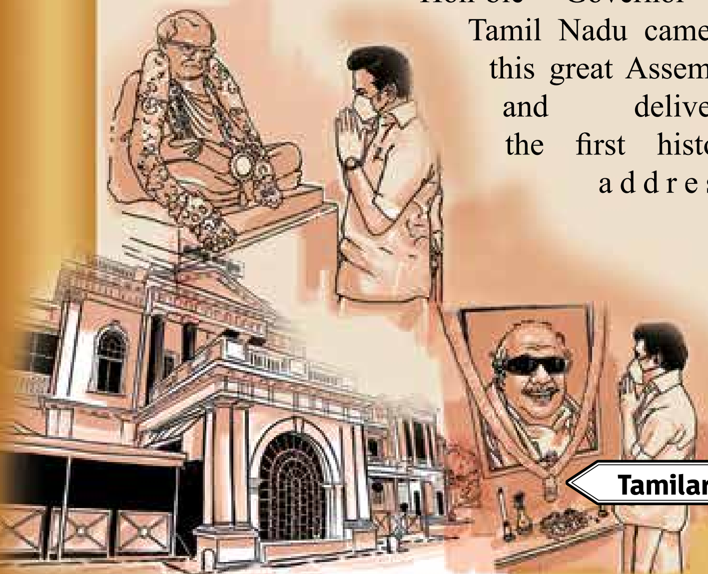
Reply of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K.Stalin** to the debate on the motion of thanks to the Governor *(English Translation).*

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

We have bid goodbye to the year 2021 and are stepping into the year 2022. First, I extend my New Year's good wishes to all the Members.

My desire is that all of us should take a pledge that Tamil Nadu should attain greatness and development in all ways. In the first Governor's address delivered after the formation of the DMK Government, which serves as a lamp for every home and as a servant to the Nation, we have mentioned that we will raise the status of Tamil Nadu so much that other States look up to it. I am confident this New Year 2022 will provide the enthusiasm and impetus for the achievement of that goal.

As this is the first Assembly Session taking place in the beginning of the year 2022, the Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu came to this great Assembly and delivered the first historic address.



Generally, the Governor's address is classified as the Government's statement of policy. I pointed this out in my speech on the Governor's address during the AIADMK's rule. A glance at the old records of this Assembly will reveal that.

In his speech on the Governor's address on 06.05.1957, Perarignar Anna said: "To the best of my knowledge, the Governor's address, generally, explains the policies of the Government and the Budget is distribution of funds as per the needs of the policies with statistics." In his own erudite way, he had described in brief how a Governor's address should be and how the budget should be prepared.

I am really happy that the Governor's address has been prepared with great care as per the statement of Perarignar Anna. I wholeheartedly believe that neutral people who scrutinize this Address will certainly accept that it is indeed a statement of policy and programme. On behalf of the Government and on my own behalf, I heartily convey my gratitude to the Hon'ble Governor.

The Hon'ble Governor stated about the style of functioning of the Government of Tamil Nadu and dwelt in detail on the schemes announced and the policies to be implemented. For that, I once again thank the Hon'ble Governor.

These encomiums are not given to me in my individual capacity; these are meant for the entire Ministerial Cabinet; to officers and staff, the limbs of this Government; to the people who have put us in governance; to the cadre of the alliance partners including the DMK who toiled to put us in power – with this sentiment alone, I stand with my head held high in this great forum.

As for Hon'ble Member Thiru. Eswaran's request for reducing the price of yarn for the development of the textiles sector, I wish to state that I wrote a letter to the Union Minister on 27.11.2021 itself requesting him "to reduce the price rise in yarn." This Government will continue to take steps to protect the welfare of weavers.

The DMK was in the Opposition and in the ruling Benches and gained honour. In his speech on the Governor's Address on 04.05.1957, Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar said: "I have not come either to applaud or decry the Governor's address; but only to express my views". We have inherited the nobility and maturity of such neutrality. Muthamizh Arignar Thalaivar Kalaignar further stated: "In the chapter "Periyarai Thunaikodal", Valluvar Peruman has said that Rulers should have great people (Periyarai) as their counsellors ("thunaivaraga"). What sort of counsellors? – not the ones who agree to anything and everything, but those who criticize the Ruler in the Assembly itself stated Thiruvalluvar. A King, he further said, who does not have such counsellors will harm himself even if he does not have enemies" said Muthamizh Arignar in this Assembly, quoting the Thirukkural.

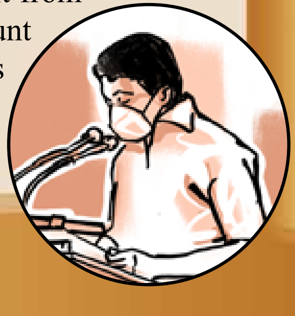
I have already stated that this Government is functioning as that of Thanthai Periyar, Perarignar Anna and Muthamizh Arignar Thalaivar Kalaignar. There is no change in that statement; it will not be there at any time. I wish to state this categorically.

The Corona, Omicron virus has again started to threaten us to the extent of not allowing more time for more Members to speak adequately on the motion of thanks and for myself to reply in detail. That is why it has become necessary to adjourn the House quickly as per the decision of the Business Committee. Still, 15 Members have participated in the debate and provided constructive ideas to the Government. For that I thank you all.

I thank the Hon'ble Member of AIADMK Thiru.Vaithilingam for his statement that this Government is acting speedily in implementing Corona preventive works. I also thank him for his remark that the AIADMK will give full support in the fight against NEET.

Hon'ble Member Thiru. P. Abdul Samad made a request for the release of prisoners who have been languishing in prison for a very long time. As I have already announced, steps are taken for that to be implemented in connection with the 113th birth anniversary of Perarignar Perunthagai Anna. Also, in deference to the request of different sections of people, the Government has appointed a committee headed by retired judge of the Madras High Court Justice Thiru. N.Adhinathan, to examine the existing rules and submit its recommendations in respect of prisoners undergoing life imprisonment in the jails of Tamil Nadu who are not eligible to benefit despite completion of 10/20 years of sentence, and those who are aged, are sick with co-morbidities, those with terminal disease and those with mental illness. I wish to inform the House through the Speaker that this Government which follows the footsteps of Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar, will take action quickly on the basis of the committee's recommendations.

Hon'ble Members Thiru. Chinnadurai and Thiru. Ramachandran spoke about relief to farmers affected by the rains and floods. As this Government is always interested in the welfare of farmers, it has released from the State Disaster Management Fund Rs. 132.12 crore for more than 1.62 lakh hectares of land as relief. The North East Monsoon that started on October 25 exhausted itself in 3 phases and damaged later-period kuruvai crops, early-period samba crops, pulse varieties, oil seed crops, millet crops, sugarcane crops and coconut trees in these lands. The relief amount included re-sowing expenditure also. More than 2.65 lakh small, micro and big farmers who benefit from this relief will have their amount deposited in their bank accounts in the next two days. Though the Union Government has not



released the Disaster Management Fund, I wish to state, this Government, out of its interest in the welfare of farmers, has released the amount from the State Disaster Management Fund.

Hon'ble Member Thiru. Chinthanai Selvan sought relaxation in rules on the contribution of people under the 'Namakku Naame' scheme from 1/3rd to 1/5th for SC/ST people. This Government that follows Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar who had listened to the voice of the under-privileged for a long time, will relax the rules for contribution from 1/3rd to 1/5th for SC/ST people as far as the 'Namakku Naame' scheme is concerned.

Though the Governor's address mentions smart classrooms to Government schools alone, I wish to inform you -- acceding to the request of the Hon'ble Member – "that smart classrooms and the required infrastructure for them will be provided to Adi Dravidar schools and Scheduled Tribes Welfare schools also by allotting additional funds."

Likewise, the Pattali Makkal Katchi leader in the Assembly had requested "severe action against those indulging in sexual harassment of girl children." In connection with this, I held a review meeting with police officers and took many steps to prevent the menace. In schools and colleges, 24,513 camps were conducted in regard to offences against children; 249 awareness campaigns were held. New POCSO courts are being set up in the Districts inclusive of Dindigul, Dharmapuri, Theni and Tiruvallur. After this Government assumed office, immediate action is taken on complaints of child abuse. This Government has created the confidence that action will be taken on complaints. This resulted in registration of 2,363 POCSO cases. In Chennai city, of the 338 cases registered after this Government took over, charge-sheets have been filed in 135 cases. In tune with my instruction that steps should be taken for expeditious

judicial trial, I wish to inform the House that charge-sheet was filed within 23 days of filing of a POCSO case in Royapettah Police Station on 19.05.2021, court trial was completed in 82 days and the culprit was sentenced on 31.08.2021. I also wish to inform you that I have ordered police officers to prevent crimes against children by quickly filing a charge-sheet on the First Information Report and hastening the trial in courts.

Thiru. K. Selvaperunthagai, Leader of the Congress Party in the Assembly requested yesterday that steps should be taken to resolve the problems of the workers of Foxconn Plant. On getting information that women workers of the Plant were staging an agitation, I took steps to solve the problem by dispatching the Minister for micro, small and medium-level industries and the Minister for labour welfare. On my instructions, talks were held with the representatives of the Foxconn company at the Secretariat on 23.12.2021, presided over by the Additional Chief Secretary to the Industries Department and many suggestions were given to resolve the labour problem. The Foxconn company has assured that it will follow the suggestions given by the Government without fail. As a result of this, I wish to inform you that the Foxconn company is to resume production from 12.01.2022 with, in the first phase, 500 workers staying in 2 hostels and that an integrated hostel to accommodate about 18,750 workers from Foxconn company and other companies is to be set up at Vallam Vadagal through SIPCOT. This is a Government treading the path of Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar. I wish to inform Members present here through the Speaker of the House that this Government, though it is always supportive of the development of industries which pave the way for industrial growth, will also protect the rights of workers. This hostel will come up on 20 acres of land in 8 blocks of 11 storeyed buildings at a cost of Rs. 570 crore. It will use new technology in construction and is proposed to be completed in 15 months.

The Leader of the Opposition gave a list and said that Amma Mini clinics have been shut down and Amma restaurants are being neglected. On my part, if I were to read out such a list I have a long one too.

A big Legislative Assembly-Secretariat complex was constructed by Thalaivar Kalaignar at Omandurar Government Estate and was declared open by the then Hon'ble Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. A Legislative Assembly Session was also conducted there. After a regime change, who changed the Assembly complex into a hospital? Who tried to change the Rs. 170 crore Anna Centenary Library, constructed as a memorial of Anna's centenary and allowed it to become decrepit? Who hid Kalaignar's name below Perarignar Anna's statue there? Who removed Kalaignar's name in the insurance and housing schemes? Who camouflaged Kalaignar's name with plants and creepers in the Semmozhi Poonga and neglected maintenance? Who erased Kalaignar's name in Marina park? Who removed Kalaignar's name from the Queen Mary's College Auditorium? Who allowed Samathuvapurams named after Periyar to go to seed, simply because they was set up by Kalaignar? Who closed down Uzhavar Santhai? Who crippled the Udangudi Power Corporation, inaugurated in Udangudi, Thoothukudi in 2009? Who suppressed the 'Namakku Naame scheme,' 'Anna Renaissance scheme' and 'Varumun Kappom scheme' Who crippled the Maduravoyal-Chennai Harbour Flyover scheme? Who obscured in the Samacheer Education Textbook the 'Semmozhi Vazhthu Paadal', written by Kalaignar and the name of Kalaignar in the lesson about the Art of Drama in the 7th standard textbook with stickers?

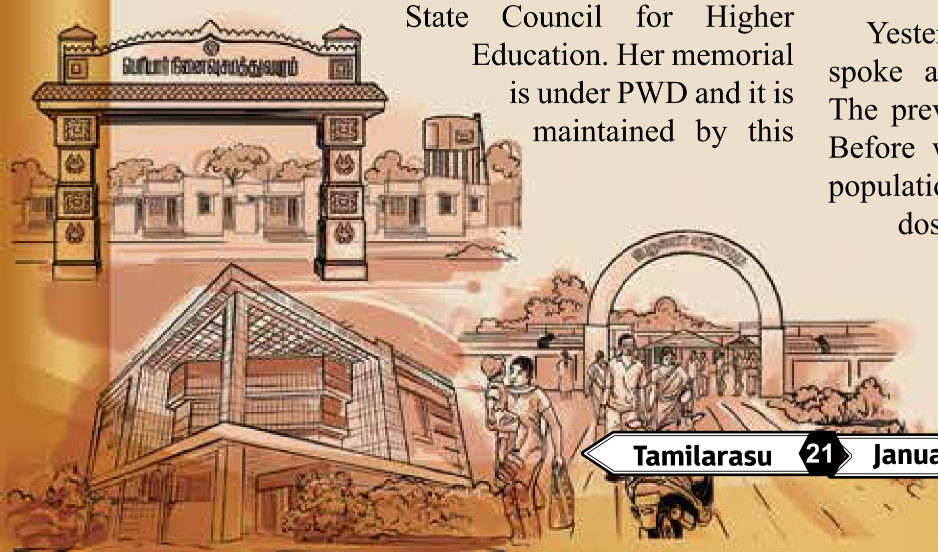
I can proceed for a long time like this. I can ask many questions. I am not saying that what we have done is a tit-for-tat to everything you had done to us. Such a thought never occurred to me; also, it will not.

In the Tamil Nadu Fisheries University and in the Music and Fine Arts University, the former Chief Minister's name is retained even today as Dr.J.Jayalalithaa. There is a statue for her in the State Council for Higher Education. Her memorial is under PWD and it is maintained by this Government. Though you have named it as Amma Clinic, there is no clinic at all. How can this Government close down a non-existent clinic? It is stated that Amma's restaurant has been closed down. Even the Hon'ble Leader of the House raised the query "what is wrong in closing down an eatery" in his sorrow over the change effected in the schemes named after Kalaignar. As for me, I don't think so. I don't wish that even one Amma Restaurant should be closed down. On assuming office, I announced that Amma restaurants would continue. To this day, I hold that ground. Certainly, I will continue to do so. I wish to tell the Leader of the Opposition that there will be no change in it.

Governor's address is an annual feature. But the gap between the previous address and the present one is just six months as the previous one took place on June 21, 2021. The gap between the two is short. But in this interval we have recorded many achievements and managed many challenges also. We came to govern during the period of the Corona pandemic; we took action on a war footing; we put a stop to the second wave of the virus. When we were retrieving the State from the pandemic, an unprecedented natural disaster in the form of rain and flood encircled us. We undertook relief measures at lightning speed.

I am sure that even the conscience of Members of the opposition parties will not refute that this Government has gained the people's confidence several-fold more than what we had achieved earlier to the election. We were true to the people; we gained the people's goodwill. I wish to assure this House that I will continue to function with the same truthfulness throughout my life.

Yesterday, the Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition spoke about Corona preventive measures here. The preventive armour for Corona is vaccination. Before we assumed office, 8.09 per cent of the population alone had been administered the first dose of vaccination; the second dose had been administered only to 2.84 per cent people alone. This was the level of vaccination in the first four months. But in the next seven months after we had

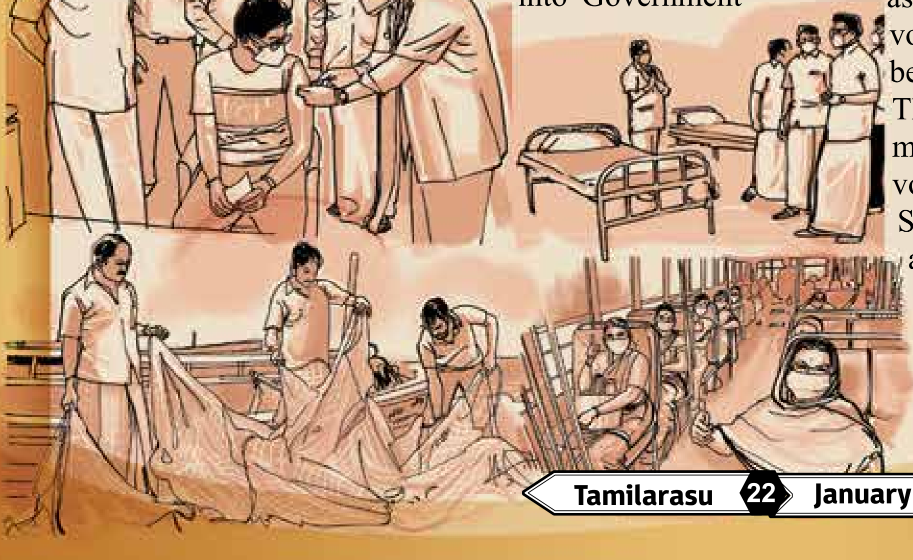


come to power, we created a big awareness amongst people and made vaccination a people's movement. At present, 87.27 per cent people have been given the first dose of vaccination and 61.25 per cent the second dose. So far, 8.76 crore doses of vaccine have been administered. On January 3, I inaugurated vaccination for the 15-18 age group.

Arrangements have been made to vaccinate school students in the school itself. Steps are taken to give a "booster dose" to the vulnerable 60 plus population and the frontline workers. Vaccination to a majority of people is the reason for Omicron virus' inability to cause any great damage despite its prevalence. I visited the corona ward and reviewed; gave the mask to those who had not worn it on the roads. The motivating thought for it was that every life is precious. This one example is enough to show that this Government is not only yours but it is a life-saving Government.

This Government has come to consider all Departments as Health and family welfare Department, not merely the one specially earmarked for it. With that thought, we are implementing all our assurances. In the previous Governor's address, 66 announcements were made; I wish to proudly say that G.O.s have been issued for 49 of them. Of the remaining 17 announcements, 3 are pending with the Union Government and 14 are in the staging of issuing G.Os. These are not mere announcements. In 6 months, GOs have been issued for 75% of the announcements. Hence, I wish to record that this Government does not stop with announcements but one that turns all announcements into orders.

These are not mere words of an individual; we are transforming words into Government



orders. We are transforming words into action plans. I wish to point out only the very important ones among those Government orders - free bus travel facility for women, Rs. 4,000 as Corona relief, Aavin milk price reduced by Rs.3 per litre, Petrol price reduced by Rs.3 per litre, many schemes for Sri Lankan Tamils at a cost of Rs.317 crore, celebration of Periyar's birth anniversary as social justice day, raising special assistance to fishermen from Rs.5,000 to Rs. 6,000, Manimandapam to social justice agitators, waiver of one per cent tax on cotton in deference to the request of weavers, dearness allowance rise to Government Employees, creation of Tamil Nadu Government Adi Dravidar, Scheduled Tribe Welfare Commissionerate, total waiver of co-operative bank jewel loans and the first of its kind in Tamil Nadu history, bank loans for the women Self Help Groups - such are the innumerable achievements of this Government.

The DMK gave 500 assurances to the people prior to the Assembly election. For a majority of these assurances, Government orders have been issued in a short period and they are being implemented in stages. The time limit for the implementation of the assurances given in the election manifesto is 5 years. The gist of the election manifesto is that we will implement (the assurances) within 5 years.

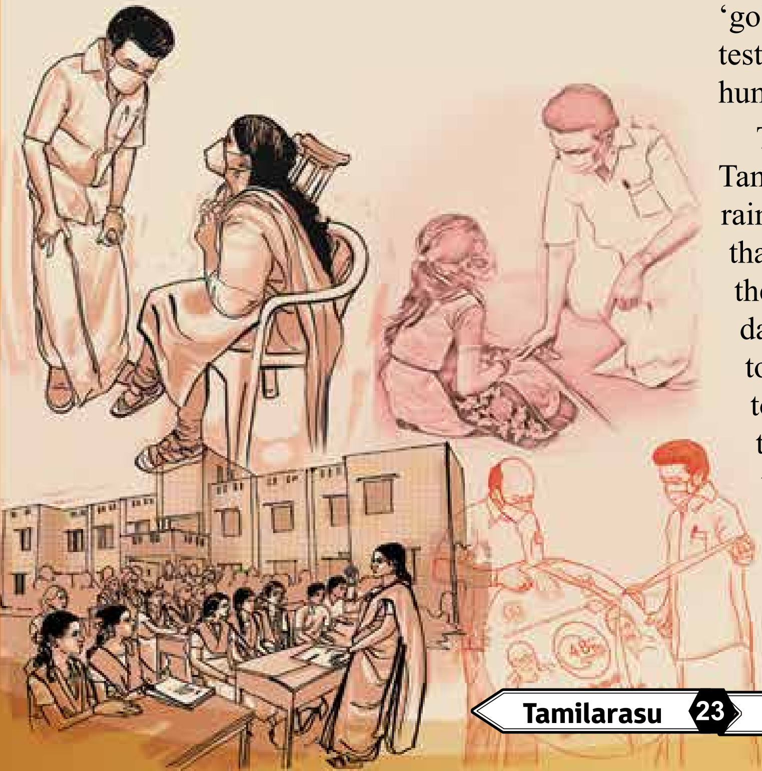
But I wish to record in this House that the DMK Government has implemented most of the assurances in 5 months time. Perarignar Anna himself has explained about implementation of election assurances when he was Chief Minister. "It is asked what you are going to do with these election assurances. I will not say you should not ask about them. But, only those who have voted for us have the full right to ask that, because they have reposed faith in us. They should ask; you are asking. Never mind. Why, I don't mind it, is because voters have not developed disbelief in us. So, they are placing faith in us. But you are asking what has happened (to the assurances). As I have already stated they will certainly be implemented gradually, in an appropriate way, at the proper time and to the required level. It

is not immediately; not at one go; if you ask whether we will omit anything – and if the answer is in the negative, will we implement? At the appropriate time, in an appropriate way, gradually and then there is the need for prioritization". With great affection, I request you all to think deeply about Perarignar Anna's explanation that can be understood easily by all, and accept it.

This Government performs not only to deliver what it has promised but also achieves what has not been stated. I wish to point out some important achievements in that category.

As children could not go to school due to Corona, parents were gripped by the problem of loss of education. The "Illam Thedi Kalvi" (education at your doorsteps) scheme was implemented to remove that anxiety. As a pioneering effort, this scheme was started in 12 Districts at an estimate of Rs.200 crore. 'Doorstep' education centres numbering 80,138 were started. Utilizing the services of 80,000 officials from different Departments and carrying out a census through the G.P.S. app., 1,73,792 drop out children have been successfully admitted to classes as per their age.

"Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam" is a great scheme. It takes medical services to the homes of people. Started at an estimate of Rs.257 crore, 43,66,518 persons have benefited under this scheme. By conducting medical camps all over the State, this pioneering scheme is implemented today as 'home hospitals'.



This Government is focussing its attention on transforming Government schools to make them sought by all people. You know I upgraded Corporation schools to that level when I was Chennai Mayor. It is certain that Government schools all over Tamil Nadu will be upgraded by us shortly, in this manner.

As a very important scheme, the 'smart class' scheme in all Government schools is mentioned in the Governor's address. Smart classes will be started in all the 24,345 primary schools in Tamil Nadu. No one needs to doubt it; this scheme will create a great educational revolution in these schools. I say with confidence that this Government will use all its powers to make Government schools in Tamil Nadu as models for the whole of India.

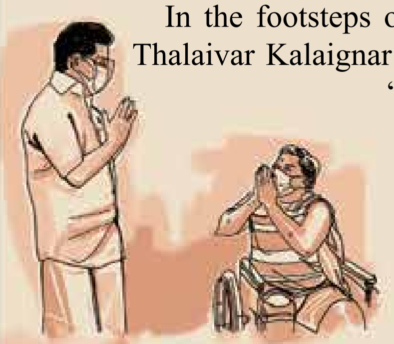
You know, another very important life-saving scheme is 'Innuyir Kappom, Nammai Kakkum 48'. This is a magnificent scheme to protect the precious lives of injured persons in road accidents. This is a scheme of compassion as this Government bears the cost of treatment of the injured in the first 48 hours after an accident in Tamil Nadu, irrespective of the victim's State/Country. Is it not the Government of Muthamizh Arignar Thalaivar Kalaignar whose name itself signifies compassion? We designed this scheme with that sense of compassion. Under this scheme, 609 hospitals have been selected and 5,274 persons have benefited so far. This is not only a 'golden scheme' for those injured in accidents but testimony that how this Government that treats human life and human rights as its two eyes.

The monsoon and sudden rains have not spared Tamil Nadu yet. Recently, two spells of heavy rains lashed Chennai. It should rather be stated that it was a downpour from a sky burst, filling up the city's roads. On every occasion of rain/flood damage, your Chief Minister was the first person to reach the affected places. We have taken steps to rectify, remove and save the people from their sorrows after meeting them and listening to their sufferings. Our Ministers, our officers, Members of Parliament and Legislature had engaged themselves fully in relief works and acted responsibly in removing the difficulties of farmers and people.

I was out of station during the recent rains. On my return to Chennai at midnight, you all know how I went to the affected places straight from the airport to solve the problems of the people. When Chennai received rains of an extent unprecedented in the last 50 years, and all lakes that are drinking water resources to the city were overflowing, we averted potential damage to people through regulated water outflows and, saved life and property.

This Government did not wait for the National Disaster Management Fund. We accelerated works and provided relief assistance by allotting Rs.801 crore from the State Disaster Management Fund. To find a permanent solution to this, a committee was set up headed by a retired I.A.S. officer Thirupugazh and obtained suggestions from it. To implement the schemes suggested by the committee in Chennai and suburbs, many Departments like Municipal Administration, Water Resources and Highways have to work jointly. I wish to inform this House that Rs. 1,000 crore will be allotted in the first phase for these works. Preliminary works will start immediately. This Government is functioning with determination to save the people from natural disasters. This Government is working seriously, keeping in mind that the difficulties experienced by people in the last rains should not recur in the next monsoon.

The Rs. 61 crore 'Kuruvai cultivation package' for the Cauvery Delta area had made farmers happy. Timely release of water from the Mettur Dam and prior dredging of canals has brought about a record achievement in kuruvai cultivation with the area of cultivation increasing to 4.9 lakh acres.



In the footsteps of Muthamizh Arignar Thalaivar Kalaignar who coined the word 'differently abled', I am happy to make an announcement, meeting their long-standing demand. The present maintenance allowance of Rs. 1,500 to those affected by severe disability, severe mental deformity, muscular atrophy and leprosy, will be increased to Rs.2,000. This will benefit 2,06,254 persons; it will entail an additional expenditure of Rs.123.75 crore annually.

Today, the Leader of the Opposition staged a walkout and spoke outside. You know the reasons for it. I don't wish to speak about it. In his interview with media people, he talked about rain and floods and stated that law and order was not good. The AIADMK has no locus, standi or moral right to speak about rain and flood. Without any prior announcement, the AIADMK opened the Chembarambakkam lake at midnight in December 2015 and had Chennai City float in water; hundreds of people died; houses and huts were submerged; the poor and middle class people lost their possessions; Tamils roamed as refugees in their own places; this was not a natural disaster but a man-made one; newspapers wrote editorials; at last relief assistance was given like applying balm to a sore. The whole Country laughed at them, seeing how smart they proved to be at work while advertising the city as a smart city.

If this is the state affairs with rains and floods, do they have any qualification at least to talk about law and order? Starting from Kodanadu murder and dacoity to Pollachi sexual matters and Gutka, they have left their seal in many things. Should I reveal them; the people know these things well. By giving details of them all, I don't want to turn the Legislative Assembly into bedlam. One should see whether one's hand is clean before accusing the other. Has any culprit been left out from arrest in respect of crimes published in newspapers? Has there been any report of a culprit escaping in our rule? The one who had escaped, has also been arrested on the fifth. Tell us if anyone has gone underground. I assure you that this Government will pounce on any person who goes underground and get him punished. There is no change in that. The Leader of the Opposition has stated that the Police Department has been changed into a Department of servility. Who commanded

the shooting of 13 persons in Thoothukudi? 'I came to know only after seeing the TV' – who had stated this? Whether or not we know it, people know it.

The Leader of the Opposition has also stated in a general manner: "Our party men are taken away under the pretext of enquiry". It is not known which case it is. We cannot give protection to those who are constantly under fear over one case or another. Rule of Law is prevailing in Tamil Nadu. Even if a DMK party man commits a wrong or gets involved in a minor crime, this Stalin will certainly take appropriate steps on it. I say this firmly, Anna and Kalaignar my witness. There is no change in this.

More than 6,112 rowdies were encircled in a 52 hour 'operation disarm' In a month-long 'special narcotics (ganja) hunt', 9,498 persons were arrested. Narcotics peddlers are being ferreted out. We have totally prevented the sale of drugs on school/college campuses. An amendment to make it a severe crime in the law is to be undertaken. Crime against women is stifled with an iron hand. Serious measures are taken to subdue the rowdies and put a stop to the mercenary killers.

If we are able to attract new investment for industrial development today, it is due to the establishment of law and order. This Government is writing a new chapter. In the last 7 months, we have conducted 3 Investors' conferences. Through them, investments to the tune of Rs.56,230 crore have been mobilized. Creation of job opportunities for 1,74,999 persons has been made possible through 109 MoUs. Of this, schemes worth Rs. 21,508 crore have been started so far. Recently the Tamil Nadu FinTech policy was released to make industrial development in a planned

way. Export Promotion Policy has also been released. A Medical Tools Park on 150 acres of land is to be set up in Oragadam. As a forerunner to the entire Country, a big furniture park is being set up on 1,100 acres of land at Thoothukudi. These two parks alone will create job opportunities for 3 lakh persons. I wish to inform you that we are working every day to achieve that target of one lakh crore dollars for Tamil Nadu economy by 2030.

After assuming office as Chief Minister, I have participated in many Government welfare assistance events in various Districts. Besides launching 185 completed Government schemes worth Rs. 714.13 crore, we have laid the foundation to 190 new schemes valued at Rs. 339.86 crore. I have distributed Rs. 3,642 crore worth welfare assistance to 8,18,835 beneficiaries belonging to various Districts. This Government is determined to change Tamil Nadu as the first port conducive for investment in the whole of South Asia.

As the Governor's address points out, the policy of this Government is 'Tamil everywhere, Tamil in every thing'. In the Tamil Nadu Official Language Act 1956, it is stated that new guidelines will be framed. From the State Disaster Relief Fund, families of those who have died of Corona virus have been given Rs. 50,000 each and 27,432 persons have been given this relief. From the Rs. 543 crore given to the Chief Minister's Public Relief Fund, Rs. 541.64 crore has been expended for Covid-19 relief works. I have already stated that there will be transparency in the Chief Minister's Public Relief Fund. That has been proven now.

Under the 'Chief Minister in your Constituency' scheme solutions were found for 2,29,216 petitions. Free bus travel to women has given good results. The percentage of women travellers has increased from 40 to 61 per cent.

In this financial year, 29,425 new women Self-Help Groups with a total membership of 4,02,829 have been set up. After this Government took over responsibility, 432 acres of temple lands worth Rs. 1,628 crore have been retrieved from encroachment.

Earlier to the election, I released a visionary scheme. To implement that scheme, a special

Department has been set up. Of the 1,641 announcements made in the last 8 months on various occasions inclusive of Budget, Agriculture Budget and under rule 110, Government Orders have been issued to 1,238. That is 75 per cent announcements have been carried out. Steps taken to implement the remaining 24 per cent announcements, 389 announcements are in various stages of execution. One per cent of announcements (14) are pending with the Union Government. I am proud to state that by disclosing openly the announcements and their way of implementation, this Government stands for a transparent administration.

Not only is this a transparent Government; it is a Government that sheds light on all! A Government that not only executes what it states but also what it has not said! This is not a party Government; it is a Government of a race! This is not a Government of Stalin, an individual but one that implements the ideas of crores of Stalins! Our being on this side and your being on the other is just a question of space. Let us show that we are all on the side of the people by serving them and making the Future Tamil Nadu radiant. I believe this Governor's address has certainly shown the way for that.

For those who find fault with the Governor's address as being bereft of this or that, Perarignar Anna had given an explanation in this House on 30.03.1967. It will be very appropriate to recall it here. He said: "Some actions/measures are not omitted in the Governor's address; they will only be outlined.

Going by the text, if one asks, 'Will you chew pan' (betel leaf with nut), it does not mean that it should be chewed without lime. No one includes lime while inviting others to chew betel and betel nut. The query will be confined to betel leaf and betel nut alone. The plate will have all the three ingredients and no one will throw out the lime as the invitation pertains only to the first two. Likewise, can the Governor's address be ignored saying 'this is not there; that is not there; so there is nothing'. In the Governor Address there will be particular mention of certain things. Other things have to be understood". I hope this explanation of Arignar Anna is enough. I once again thank the Hon'ble Governor for identifying the path this Government treads.

I also wish to point out that the Pongal gift hamper is being distributed to more than 2.15 crore rice card holders at an expenditure of Rs. 1,296 crore. The beneficiaries include Sri Lankan Tamils in camps in Tamil Nadu. I extend my greetings to the people of Tamil Nadu to celebrate the Festival of Tamils with the gift hamper and by observing the Corona pandemic restrictions.

I also extend my 'Thamizhar Thirunal' greetings to the Hon'ble Speaker and to the Hon'ble Members.

Forgetting the party boundaries and realizing the condition of people, I request you all to welcome the Governor's address wholeheartedly.

Seven Hon'ble Members have given amendments to the resolution. They have mentioned about the works to be carried out in their constituencies. They have been sent to the Ministers concerned for taking steps on them. Hence I request the Hon'ble Members to withdraw their amendments and all the members to welcome the Governor's address. Nandri! Vanakkam!

Hon’ble Chief Minister calls for fight against NEET to protect students' interests, federal structure

Statement of the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K.Stalin**, in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on 06.01.2022, under the Rule 110, regarding convening an all-party meeting of legislature leaders on NEET *(English Translation)*.

Hon’ble Speaker Sir,

This Government’s lofty principle is, “Let the World move towards the direction in which aspirations of all are fulfilled’’. This should be so especially in the field of education. This is the motive of the present Government. Any entrance examination for admission to college education will affect the poor, the marginalized, the downtrodden and students from the fringes of society. The present Government is of the firm opinion that admission into any educational course in colleges should be based only on the educational capacity of the students and not on any entry test. This means that admission into any stream of college education should be based on the 12th standard marks in the final examination.

Based on this, the then State Government led by Dr.Kalaignar, scrapped the entrance test for the entry into professional colleges by enacting a separate law in the year 2007. The law got the approval of the Hon’ble President of India and thereby the interests of poor rural students in admission to medical courses were protected. Students who qualified from the medical colleges in the State are responsible for making the State number one in the medical field.

But the amendment to NEET, brought by the Union Government in previous years and the National Medical Commission Act have adversely affected students as these make the NEET examination mandatory for getting admission to the medical colleges in the State. The Union Government deprived the State Government of its powers to admit students in medical colleges, financed from the State funds. Apart from this, the NEET examination was favourable only to affluent students who could afford to undergo special coaching for it. Thus the NEET examination makes the 12th standard marks irrelevant and the school education system itself meaningless.

This system not only shatters the educational dream of students but also the Country’s federal system. We should not remain mute witnesses to this. We can’t remain silent spectators when the future of students is at stake. To correct the same and to establish the State’s rights and students’ interests, a Bill was adopted in the Assembly on 19.09.2021. But the Bill is still pending with the Hon’ble Governor and is yet to be forwarded to the Hon’ble President of India for his assent. In this connection, I myself met the Hon’ble Governor and insisted upon him to forward the Bill.

Following this, on 28.12.2021, a team of MPs belonging to Tamil Nadu led by the chairman of the DMK’s Parliamentary Party, Thiru. T.R.Baalu, handed over a petition to the office of the Hon’ble President of India, explaining in detail the loss to medical aspirants in the State, in view of the NEET examination and the delay in giving assent to the Bill. Subsequently, a senior officer at the Secretariat of the Hon’ble President of India informed them that their petition had been sent to the Union Home Ministry for necessary action.

To stress the State's case further, all party MPs belonging to Tamil Nadu sought an appointment with the Union Home Minister. But the Union Home Minister refused to meet the Tamil Nadu MPs team. This is against the principle of democracy. The State's desire to realize the dream of students and the expectations of the 8.5 crore people of the State should succeed. That is the reason why the State Government has been taking various measures. As the Union Home Minister did not give dates for meeting the delegation of Tamil Nadu MPs, the petition was handed over to his office yesterday.

Going through the history of Tamil Nadu and the Dravidian Movement, one should understand that Tamil Nadu succeeded in bringing Social Justice in the State only after prolonged political, legal and democratic struggle.

I would like to record here that all our progress in the State was achieved through such agitations. So let us consider our next agitation against NEET as the next phase of agitation in favour of social justice. We will not back out of our principle, but take forward our struggle for social justice.

Taking into consideration the current situation, we have decided to convene an all-Party meeting day after tomorrow, that is on 08.01.2022. I affectionately request the leaders of all party MLAs to participate in the meeting. The resolution was adopted by you in the Assembly. So you know its importance. So, legislative party leaders of all parties should participate in the meeting. I would like to place on record in the House that the decision taken at the meeting will take forward our struggle in support of Social Justice.

Government for ending online gambling

Announcement made by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M. K. Stalin** in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on 06.01.2022 *(English Translation)*.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

The Hon'ble Member of the House, Thiru. Vaithilingam mentioned in the House about online gambling. There was news about online gambling in the newspapers also.

As far as online gambling is concerned, an Act to ban it was enacted by the previous Government. But the Hon'ble High Court stayed the Act, stating that the Tamil Nadu Gambling and Police Laws Amendment Act, 2021 was against the Constitution, on 03.08.2021. The Government, taking legal opinion, decided to seek a stay against the Hon'ble High Court ruling, and filed an appeal in the Hon'ble Supreme Court. The case is going on in the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

Through the Speaker, I would like to inform the Hon'ble Member that the Government of Tamil Nadu will soon put an end to online gambling.

Order for appointments under Child Development Scheme

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K.Stalin**, handed appointment orders for 13 Assistant Directors and 86 employees for the Integrated Child Development Scheme, on behalf of the Social Welfare and Women's Empowerment Department. As a token, the Hon'ble Chief Minister handed over the appointment orders to 3 Assistant Directors and 7 Integrated Child Development Scheme employees, at the Secretariat on 03.01.2022.

Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurates distribution of Rs.3,000 crore to women SHGs

'Scheme for loans to women SHGs not a routine one, aim is to make women self-confident'

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M. K.Stalin** at a Government function at Tiruttani, Tiruvallur District, followed by distribution of loans and welfare assistance on 14.12.2021 *(English Translation)*.

Hon'ble Minister for Rural Development Thiru.K.R. Periakaruppan who has delivered the 'munnilai' address to this excellent event – actually, it is bigger than an event, it is like a big conference, where Government's welfare assistance is to be distributed. Principal Secretary, Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, Tmt. Amudha I.A.S., who delivered the welcome address, to speak about Principal Secretary Amudha – when I assumed the office of administration, she was an officer in the Prime Minister's Office at Delhi. I seriously considered the development of rural administration, particularly the women Self Help Groups (SHG), that they should function in a manner that they achieve that goal. When we deliberated and searched for a suitable officer for the post of Secretary, I remembered Tmt. Amudha. I doubted whether an officer in the PMO would accept this invitation. When she came to know about it, she said she would certainly accept the post in the state and got the transfer with the consent of the Prime Minister. We are very happy that she has come and taken over the post of Secretary to the Department of Rural Development. The reason for choosing her for this post, is that when I was Deputy Chief Minister looking after rural administration also, she was the District Collector of Dharmapuri and was very supportive for the successful implementation of many schemes. Now, I need not worry about SHGs. As Tmt. Amudha has assumed that responsibility, the SHGs will develop automatically and become meritorious. I have gained that confidence.

Likewise, Arakkonam Member of Parliament and former Minister of State in the Union Government Dr. Jagathrakshakan,

Members of Legislative Assembly Thiruvalargal S. Chandran, V.G. Rajendran, A. Krishnasamy, S. Sudarsan, T.J. Govindarajan, K. Ganapathy, Joseph Samuel, K.P. Sankar and Durai Chandrasekar, District Collector Dr. Alby John Varghese who is to propose a vote of thanks, Managing Director, Tamil Nadu Women Development Corporation Tmt. Pallavi Baldev I.A.S., District Panchayat Council President Tmt. Uma Maheswari, Managing Director of the District-level banks Thiru. Partha Pratim Sengupta, high level officers of various Departments, Government officers, staff, local administration representatives, TV, Newspaper and Media friends, Friends from the Police Department, Elders, Ladies and Sisters who have assembled here with zeal, in particular my affectionate sisters and women belonging to SHGs –I extend my loving respects to all of you.

In her welcome address, the Principal Secretary of this Department, Tmt. Amudha gave a brief account about the women SHGs – when it was started, who inaugurated it etc. When the DMK took over administration, it was Thalaivar Kalaignar who first launched the women SHG in Dharmapuri District. Why was it started? That too, she explained. Women folk should stand on their own legs without expecting any one's mercy. We have to give them self-confidence to lead their lives with self-respect. On that basis, he launched the SHGs.

Many have spoken about the attention and encouragement given to these SHGs when I was Deputy Chief Minister, looking after local administration portfolio also and so I need not speak much about it.

Today's event is a credit giving event through banks to SHGs. On this day alone, loan assistance to the tune of Rs. 3,000 crore will be disbursed to SHGs across the State. For the sake of SHGs, the scheme has been renewed in every District.

This event is conducted not only in Tiruttani but all over Tamil Nadu. Though Ministers are for the entire State, their normal tendency is to give special attention to their Districts. Though I am Chief Minister of the entire State, when I go to my Constituency Kolathur, I act with greater impetus. That is not wrong. Service to people is a duty. When I consulted Thiru. Periakaruppan on the choice of venue for this event, I had expected him to say Sivagangai District as he belongs to that District. But he left the venue to my convenience and thus he has held it in Tiruttani. Hence, again and again I thank Hon'ble Minister Periakaruppan, the Principal Secretary of the Department Tmt. Amudha and all the staff of this Department.

With the inauguration of this event at Tiruttani, bank credits and welfare assistance to the tune of Rs.2,750 crore is going to be disbursed to 7,56,142 beneficiaries belonging to 58, 463 SHGs across the State. I greet you to make use of it in a good way and prosper.

This event has been arranged like a conference and is taking place with the participation of thousands of people. I thank you for your greetings to me when I walked amidst you

to reach the dais. About 75 per cent of the gathering are women and 25 per cent are men. What struck me then was your quietness and discipline, giving the impression that hereafter decision making would be by women only. Generally, I have not witnessed such discipline among women anywhere. This discipline of yours has given me the confidence that your success, as far as SHGs is concerned, will continue to be great.

If four women gather at a place, that place will spring bustle with sound. To see thousands of women sitting quietly and with discipline is an overwhelming sight.

I was Local Administration Minister in the period 2006-2011 and I distributed loans and revolving funds to thousands of women, standing for several hours at a stretch. We toiled thus for the development of SHGs. In my election campaign to the Assembly, many women, wherever I went, particularly in villages identified themselves as members of SHGs and recalled my help for the prosperity of their families and that continues even now.

When the new Government was formed, I directed that SHGs should be rejuvenated with a new vigour and our Minister, Principal Secretary Tmt. Amudha and her subordinates are all paying attention to implement it in an excellent way.

It was during DMK rule, headed by Thalaivar Kalaignar, that the foundation was first laid in the whole of India for the economic development of women. Though it was launched in Dharmapuri District, it was subsequently started in the Districts of Salem, Villupuram and Cuddalore. The Government that followed did not handle this scheme properly. I don't want to politicize it. But I am saying it just for your information.

After Kalaignar assumed office as Chief Minister again in 1996, the women SHGs were created in 14 Districts. First 5,177 women SHGs were created followed by 6,014 in 7 Districts in the next year and 15,029 in 8 Districts in the year after that. It grew up like this. When I was Local Administration Minister, the number of SHGs in thousands grew up into lakhs.

I am proud to say that today there are 7.22 lakh women SHGs all over the State. Total membership in them is 1,06,68,000 women.

If so many lakh SHGs are functioning and more than one crore women are functioning in them, I wish to emphatically and happily inform them that the seed for this was sown by our Idhaya Thalaivar, Muthamizh Arignar Thalaivar Kalaignar. That is why he is hailed till date as 'Magalir Nalam Kaatha Maanbaalar'.

This should not be considered as yet another routine scheme – integrating (women), disbursing (loan) and securing repayment. This women SHG scheme lays the foundation for a woman to be independent and to stand on her own legs for her livelihood. By joining this group, a woman acquires many good qualities like thrift, saving habit, capacity to think beyond the limits of the household, urge to earn on her own and developing awareness of community.

A woman gains self confidence when she lives in a group rather than as a solitary individual. This scheme provides that confidence.

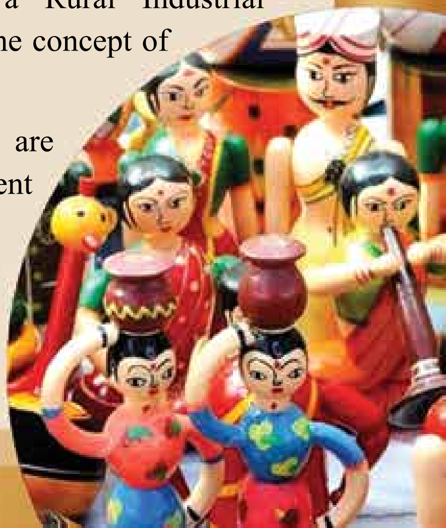
The highlight of this scheme is the

revolving fund. This fund is the propeller and substratum for women to keep their heads aloft economically.

- In the current financial year alone, Rs. 87.39 crore has been released as community investment fund to 17,479 SHGs.
- Rs. 14.59 crore has been released through 5,838 societies in the current financial year to differently abled persons and marginalized people.
- Arrangements have been made to market and get remunerative prices for the products manufactured by women.
- We are arranging for co-operative bank loans through creation of federations at taluk level.
- The target fixing for loan distribution to women SHGs procedure was first introduced in the whole of India in 2007 when I was the Local Administration Minister.
- So far, Rs. 1,04,013 crore has been given as bank credit to 36,97,059 SHGs.
- This year, we have fixed Rs.20,000 crore as target for loan distribution.
- Till now, Rs. 6,777 crore has been given. By this month end, the distribution will touch Rs. 10,000 crore. I have directed that by next year, the target of Rs.10,000 crore should be achieved. I have also requested to organize special camps and expedite distribution of the loan.
- Micro industrial loan guarantee fund is also used to provide loans from Rs.10 lakh to Rs. 20 lakh without property mortgage.
- Orders have been issued for creation of agglomerations at the panchayat level and distribution of bank loans to them. In this way loans from Rs.10 lakh to Rs.1.50 crore can be obtained.
- Livelihood measures for women SHGs are being undertaken.
- Certification seed production centre is functioning.
- Organic farming is in operation.
- Agriculture, production of handicraft articles and food processing industry are encouraged.
- More than all these things, a National Rural Economic Startup scheme is implemented with the assistance of the World Bank.
- We are providing guidance for marketing all the products of the women SHGs.
- We have revived the 'Vazhnthu Kaattuvom' scheme launched in the earlier DMK rule.
- We are also implementing a Tamil Nadu rural startup scheme.
- We have designed this as a Rural Industrial Development Scheme beyond the concept of poverty eradication.

In this way, a number of schemes are being implemented by our Government of Tamil Nadu.

I have stated all these schemes as headlines. It will take several hours



to give details about them. In short, we are implementing great schemes to uplift all women.

I don't say that we have fulfilled all the promises I made before the election. We are implementing them in stages. We will not give them up on account of inability. I wish to firmly state that we will certainly and definitely carry them out.

Through women's uplift, their families will thrive and so shall the society too. Only through social development, does the state develop.

One of the basic tenets of the Dravidian Movement is women's empowerment - women's uplift. A resolution for property rights to women was passed at a Self-Respect Movement Conference, conducted by Thanthai Periyar in Chengalpattu District in 1929. The resolution was drafted by Thanthai Periyar. It was our leader Kalaignar who enacted a law giving equal rights to women in property in the year 1989. While passing the bill, he said, "I was 5 years old when Periyar moved that resolution. Today, I am moving that resolution as a law and my age is 65" and passed that bill. The reason for pointing this out is that you should not forget that it is the Dravidian Movement that proclaimed such a revolutionary reform even a century ago. Such a leader was Thanthai Periyar. The DMK that treads his path has framed many schemes for women

Equal rights in property for women, 30 per cent reservation for women in employment, 33 per cent reservation for women in local administration set ups, financial assistance to pregnant women, rehabilitation scheme for widows, law for compulsory employment of women as teachers in primary schools, a scheme to provide financial assistance to the marriage of girls from poor families was first launched in Tamil Nadu in the whole of India during the rule of Thalaivar Kalaignar. Above all these things the women SHG scheme has been created for women to live with self-confidence, It is the DMK Government that has supplied gas stoves along with free LPG connection. Like these, we have implemented many schemes for women's development.

On the very day I assumed office as Chief Minister, I signed the order for free travel of women in buses.

We waived the jewel loan obtained out of mortgaging less than 5 sovereigns. SHGs loans to the extent of Rs.2,756 crore have been waived.

Today, we have given loans to SHGs to the extent of Rs. 3,000 crore. We are conducting this event not only to turn women into industrial entrepreneurs through arranging loans but to uplift all women and give them self-confidence. To lead such a life and for your uplift, this Government headed by me will continue to take action. I should not have said 'the Government headed by me' because it is not my Government but 'our' Government. With this affirmation, I take leave of you thanking the SHGs for enabling the conduct of this event so peacefully.

Later, the Hon'ble Chief Minister interacted with the Members of the women's Self Help Group.

Hon'ble Chief Minister flags off INDCO tea vans

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K. Stalin** flagged off 20 INDCO Tea vans, worth Rs.3 crore, under the Tamil Nadu Government's Special Area Development Programme, at the Secretariat on 15.12.2021.

These Tea vans have been designed by India's biggest tea federation, INDCOSERVE and have become popular at the all-India level.

INDCOSERVE, established in 1965, has the objective of improving the livelihoods of over 30,000 small tea growers in the Nilgiris. Through INDCOSERVE 16 co-operative tea factories annually manufacture and sell about 14 million kg of tea.

The INDCO Tea van, inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister, will provide employment opportunities to tribal people and thereby improve their livelihood. The vans will be operated in Chennai, Coimbatore, Tiruppur and the Nilgiris Districts. They will facilitate retail sale of INDCO Tea in a big way. INDCOSERVE products are cent percent made from organically grown crops. The vans will serve various varieties of tea, besides coffee and snack items.

In addition, the Hon'ble Chief Minister, on behalf of the National Co-operative Development Corporation, under the social joint responsibility plan, handed over a permission letter for sanctioning Rs.19.98 lakh to Keystone Foundation to its Chairman and Director, Thiru. Pratim Roy. Through this assistance, organic farming of tea, seasoning the plants and reduction of acid content of plants and avoiding use of chemical inputs are facilitated. For this, 640 small tea growers will be given training.

Hon'ble Chief Minister opens Kathipara Urban Square as a multi-modal transport hub

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K.Stalin**, on 16.12.2021, threw open for public use the Urban Square at Kathipara Junction, built at a cost of Rs. 14.50 crore. The square has been constructed with financial assistance by the Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority and on behalf of the Chennai Metro Rail Limited. The Urban Square integrates various modes of transport, helps passengers shift from one mode of transport to another and to take rest during the changeover.

Kathipara Junction is one of the landmarks of Chennai and is the entry point to Chennai. It is considered to be the biggest clover-leaf type over-bridge in Asia, and was inaugurated by Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar in 2008. CMDA had planned to construct the Urban Square with park and play facilities for children at Kathipara junction, at a cost of Rs.14.50 crore.

Kathipara Urban Square is linked to all major roads, in the north with Ekkattuthangal Metro Station, with Alandur Metro Station in the south and with Guindy Metro station in the east. This square is well integrated with Metro Transport Corporation and MTC buses can take a U turn at the square.

This Urban Square has been developed as a milestone under the Singara Chennai 2.0 Scheme. This junction, which is always busy, now has a place for rest for pedestrians and it is the first of its kind in the city.

This design of the square showcases the symbol of New Chennai and reflects the cultural heritage of the city. The square also has a canteen, handicraft centre and children's play area with greenery. Provision has been made for parking 128 cars, 340 two wheelers and 8 bus stops.

Hon'ble Chief Minister visits Tholkappia Poonga, reviews repair and developmental works

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K. Stalin** visited the Tholkappia Poonga at Adyar, Chennai on 17.12.2021 and reviewed the repair and development works that were taking place there.

The foundation for the Tholkappia Poonga on nearly 58 acres of land was laid by Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar in 2008 and was dedicated to the people for use on 22.01.2011.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister also undertook a detailed review of the restoration works being carried out in the Cooum and Adyar rivers by the Chennai Rivers Restoration Trust jointly with other connected Government Departments, repair works proposed to be taken in Buckingham Canal, its main canals, drainage canals of Cooum and Adyar rivers and ecological restoration works in Ennore estuary, all at a cost of Rs.2,773.49 crore.

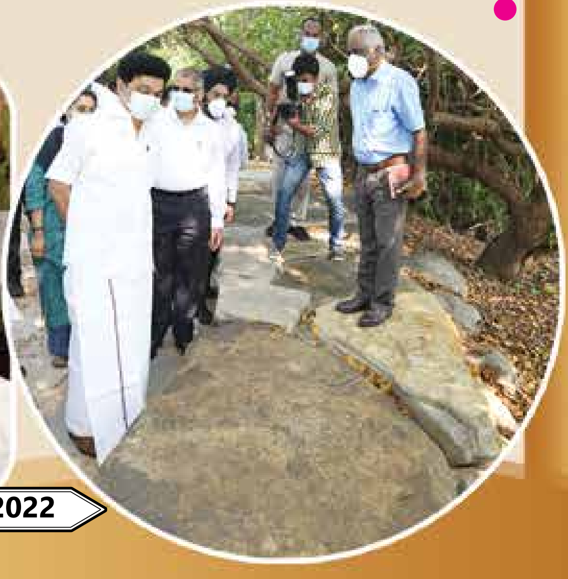
These restoration and repair works are proposed to be carried out jointly with the Departments of PWD/Water Resources, Greater Chennai Corporation, Directorate of Municipal Administration, Commissionerate of Town Panchayats, Directorate of Rural Development, Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board and Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Board.

The Greater Chennai Corporation is planting vegetation along the river banks as a part of these restoration works. The Chennai Rivers Restoration Trust and experts provide the expert advice for these works.

Families residing along the banks of rivers are re-settled in apartments of the Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Board after taking a census and works connected with re-settlement are executed elaborately.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister ordered officials to expedite the on-going works of dredging, solid waste removal, fencing and diverting sewage water. He enquired the officials about the works being carried out by the Water Resources Department and the Greater Chennai Corporation on the Buckingham canal, its main canals and on the drainage canals of Cooum and Adyar rivers.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister also advised officials to take appropriate steps for attracting students to visit this Poonga in large numbers.



Guidelines announced for singing Tamizhthai Vaazhthu

Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Thiru. M.K. Stalin on 17.12.2021 *(English Translation)*.

The Tamil language is the very life of Tamils and it shines as the light of their sentiments. It is an incomparable, unique, lofty classical language, rich in grammar and literature. Tamils who venerate such a Tamil language as Mother, had expressed their desire a century ago that a song common to all should be brought out to hail Mother Tamil. This sentiment has been stressed continuously by Tamil scholars, enthusiasts, literary organizations, Tamil Sangams and the general public.

The 1913 annual report of Karanthai Tamil Sangam had requested that the 'Neerarum Kadaludutha' verse, penned by Manonmaniam Sundaranar should be sung in all functions in Tamil Nadu.

From 1914, this verse was sung as 'Thamizhthai Vazhthu Padal' by Karanthai Tamil Sangam in all their annual functions. This verse was also sung as an invocatory song by many Tamil Sangams that had emerged, keeping the Karanthai Tamil Sangam as their mother organization in their functions.

Members of the Karanthai Tamil Sangam also presented a request to the then Chief Minister Arignar Anna that this hymn should be declared as the Tamil Nadu Government's State song. Acceding to the long-pending request of Tamil scholars, enthusiasts and the general public, Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar, then Chief Minister announced while speaking at a Government function held on March 11, 1970: "Hereafter Thamizhthai Vazhthu will be sung at the start of the Tamil Nadu Government's events. 'Neerarum kadaludutha' song written by Manonmaniam Sundaranar will be the Thamizhthai Vazhthu Paadal".

Accordingly, a portion of the verse, hailing Mother Tamil, written under the title 'Thamizh Deiva Vanakkam' in the famous play, Manonmaniam, published in 1891, was adopted as Thamizhthai Vazhthu Paadal. The then Tamil Nadu Government headed by Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar announced the same on November 23, 1970 and issued a G.O. also. Following the issue of the G.O, the Thamizhthai Vazhthu Paadal is sung as an invocatory song in Government functions, educational institutions, public institutions and in public events in Tamil Nadu.

In this situation and in the context of the need to frame some guidelines for singing the Thamizhthai Vazhthu Padal, an order was issued recently through the Department of Tamil Development and Information to avoid playing recorded Thamizhthai Vazhthu song and render the song through vocally trained persons.

To bring about uniformity and discipline in the rendering of Thamizhthai Vazhthu Paadal that praises the Tamil language, a G.O. has now been issued listing the methods that should be followed:

The Thamizhthai Vazhthu Paadal, containing the following lines and authored by Manonmaniam Sundaranar is declared as Tamil Nadu Government's State Song.

The following lines of Thamizhthai Vazhthu should be rendered in Mullaipaani raga (Mohana ragam) in 'thisra gathi' in 55 seconds.

"Neerarum Kadaludutha Nilamadandhai kezhilozhugum
Seerarum vadhanamena thigazh bharatha kandamidhil
Thekkanamum adhirsirantha Dravidanal thirunaadum
Thakkasiru pirainuthalum tharithanarum thilakamume!
Atthilaka vasanaipoal anaithulagum inbamura
Ethisaiyum pugazhmanakka irunthaperum Thamizhanange!
Thamizhanange!
Un seerilamai thiramviyanthu seyalmaranthu
Vazhthudhume! Vazhthudhume! Vazhthudhume!.

Rendering Thamizthai Vazhthu song is compulsory before the starting of events in all educational institutions, Universities, Government offices and in all public organizations inclusive of public sector units in Tamil Nadu.

All should stand up without fail while the Thamizh Thai vazhthu song is sung.

Exemption is given to the differently abled persons from standing while the song is sung.

In public events, the song should be rendered vocally by trained persons, avoiding recorded songs.

As the general public and private organizations can play a big role in extolling the greatness of Tamil language world over, singing the Thamizhthai Vazhthu in the beginning in art, literary and public events conducted by private organizations in Tamil Nadu will be encouraged.

'Innuyir Kappom, Nammai Kakkum 48' to bring down accident mortality

Hon'ble Chief Minister launches scheme for free treatment to accident victims in first 48 hours

A scheme to provide emergency treatment in the first 48 hours of an accident at no cost 'Innuyir Kappom, Nammai Kakkum 48' scheme was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K. Stalin** on 18.12.2021 at an event held at the Melmaruvathur Adhi Parasakthi Medical College and Research Institution, Chengalpattu District.

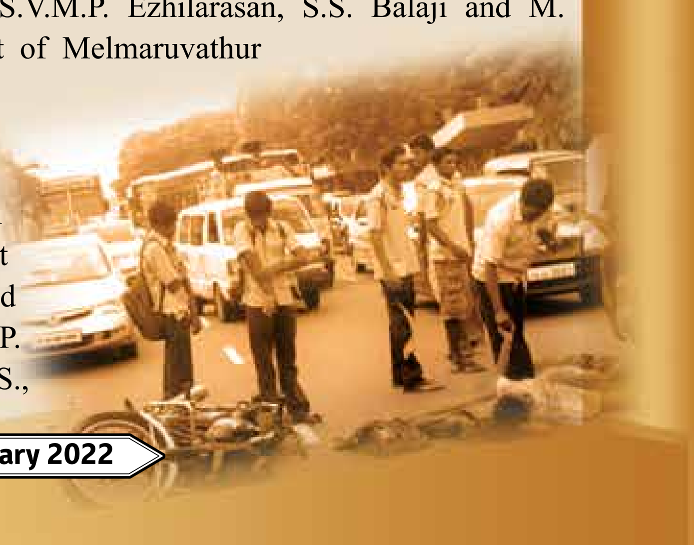
At the event, 10 hospitals – IRT Perundurai Medical College Hospital, Erode, Government Medical College Hospitals at Thanjavur, Villupuram and Dharmapuri, Christian Medical College Hospital, Vellore, Sri Mookambika Medical College Hospital, Kulasekaram, Kanniyakumari District, Velammal Medical College Hospital, Madurai, Cauvery Medical Centre, Tiruchi, Amaravathi Hospital, Karur and Galaxy Hospital, Tirunelveli - were attached to the 'Innuyir Kappom, Nammai Kakkum 48' scheme through video conferencing.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister presented the passwords to 18 representatives of hospitals as a token of inaugurating the scheme in 609 hospitals and released a video disc on the scheme.

Earlier, the Hon'ble Chief Minister declared open an exhibition on the scheme and went round it.

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K. Stalin** after inaugurating the 'Innuyir Kappom, Nammai Kakkum 48' scheme at a Government function at Melmaruvathur *(English Translation)*.

Hon'ble Minister for Health and Family Welfare Thiru. Ma. Subramanian who presides over this function, Hon'ble Minister for Municipal Administration Thiru. K.N.Nehru, Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education Thiru. K. Ponmudi, Hon'ble PWD Minister Thiru.E.V. Velu, Hon'ble Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Industries Thiru.T.M.Anbarasan, Member of Parliament Thiru. G. Selvam, Members of the Legislature Thiruvalargal K.Sundar, S.R. Raja, E.Karunanidhi, Tmt. M.Varalakshmi, Thiruvalargal S. Arvind Ramesh, S.V.M.P. Ezhilarasan, S.S. Balaji and M. Babu, Vice President of Melmaruvathur Adhiparasakthi Trust, Revered Tmt. Lakshmi Bangaru Adigalar, Special Officer, Department of Health and Family Welfare Dr. P. Senthilkumar I.A.S.,



Director, National Health Mission Dr. Darez Ahamed I.A.S., District Collector Thiru. A.R. Rahul Nath I.A.S., Project Director, Tamil Nadu Health System Project Dr. Tmt. S. Uma I.A.S., Representatives of private hospitals, ready to participate in this scheme and perform your duty, Police Department friends, TV, Newspaper and Media brothers, Friends, My Beloved students, studying in this college, Elders, Ladies and Friends, I wish to convey my respects to all of you.

I am reminded of the interpretation of our Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar to the Kural 'Udukkai izhandavan kai pola' (like the hand of a person whose apparel in the waist is slipping). He has said: "The definition for friendship is to rush to remove a friend's sorrow like the hands that act immediately to prevent the dress from slipping from the waist". This 'Life Protection Scheme' designed by the Government of Tamil Nadu provides immediate help in the same manner. As the Tamil proverb goes, a friend indeed saves one's life. This scheme is designed on the basis of such a concept of friendship.

With an excellent record in many sectors, Tamil Nadu shines today as a State attaining glory as the pre-eminent State in the entire Country.

Through an opinion poll, I was assessed, elected and shaped by you as Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, along with other Chief Ministers in the Country and it was declared that the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Thiru. M.K. Stalin is in the forefront of other Chief Ministers in India. I am happy, not only I, you are also happy; the whole of Tamil Nadu is happy.

I have mentioned this in many places, at many events - better than capturing the premier place among Chief Ministers, pride is in getting the name that Tamil Nadu is at the forefront when compared to other States. That is what we expect.

We are toiling for Tamil Nadu to occupy the premier place in education, job opportunities, industrial development, export, social development and women's development. At the same time, the record of Tamil Nadu should be minimal in poverty, hunger, crimes and road accidents.

But, Tamil Nadu continues to record the highest mortality in road accidents. It is really regrettable. Each such death cripples the future of that person's family; exposes it to many difficulties. Considering that youths succumb the most in the road accidents, their priceless future also gets knocked out.

The Government of Tamil Nadu is paying special attention to reducing road accidents, preventing road accident mortality and upgrading road safety. All of us should realize that every person is very important not only to that person's family but also to this Government and to the Country. In that respect, the 'Innuyir Kappom, Nammai Kakkum 48' scheme, framed by the Tamil Nadu Government will reduce the mortality rate in road accidents. On behalf of the Government and as Chief Minister, I have instructed the officials concerned to bestow greater attention to the steps taken to prevent accidents and to averting deaths due to accidents and to involve themselves totally in it.

The time factor is said to be the main reason for the occurrence of death in an accident. Immediate hospitalization after the occurrence of an accident can certainly save lives. Delay promotes deaths. Doctors describe this time factor as the 'golden hours'.

Decisions taken in those priceless hours and speedy action can save human lives. Also, this is the time when the victim suffers the most. There should be no difference on whether the place of admission is a Government hospital or a private one. We wanted to avert any issue on that score. That is why we announced as a very important feature of this scheme that the Government of Tamil Nadu will

bear the emergency treatment cost in the first 48 hours to road accident victims admitted to private hospitals.

Mostly, lives can be saved if immediate attention is paid to the injured and appropriate treatment is given within 48 hours. 'Then what?' is the voice I can hear from you. The Chief Minister's Medical Insurance Scheme steps in thereafter. Treatment can be availed of under that scheme. Surgery and intensive treatment needed by victims of road accidents are covered under the insurance scheme. So there is no need to worry.

While the life-saving emergency treatments are required largely in the first 48 hours, it is stated that many private hospitals are hesitant to perform these emergency treatments. This forces the shifting of accident victims to far off Government Hospitals on many occasions in spite of there being private hospitals nearby, causing delay in providing emergency treatment. This scheme is inaugurated today as a remedy to all these problems.

I have inaugurated this scheme today with the aim that nearby private hospitals too should come forward to undertake all the required emergency treatments needed in the first 48 hours.

• The Government of Tamil Nadu will bear the cost of emergency treatments needed in the first 48 hours.

• 201 Government and 408 private hospitals (total 609) approved for this scheme, have been integrated on the basis of merit and facilitated to provide medical treatments.

• Another important special feature of this scheme is that all those injured in road accidents within Tamil Nadu borders will be given free medical treatment in the first 48 hours without any distinction as card holders/non-card holders of the Chief Minister's medical insurance scheme or whether the persons are from Tamil Nadu or from other states or other countries.

• Approved treatments (81 treatment packages) will be provided in the first 48 hours in the same hospital where a road accident patient has been admitted as an in-patient.

• Subsequent treatments will certainly be given to those who remain unstable even after 48 hours or who need continuous treatment, under the Chief Minister's medical insurance scheme or as per the appropriate guidance.

I have been narrating so far how the Government will help if accidents occur. But the most important aim of the Government is there should be no accidents. High speed is the most important reason for accidents to occur. Reduce the speed while driving the vehicle on the roads. Divert that speed to your work; don't show it on the roads and streets. Helmet wearing is a must for two-wheelers. Some keep the helmet in the vehicle's forefront and wear it after seeing the police.

Dr. B.Ramamurthi, the famous neurologist requested Thalaivar Kalaignar when he was Chief Minister, to make helmet wearing compulsory. He said, "More accidents are occurring in the Country now. Young boys are coming to hospital with a head injury after a bike ride; so wearing a helmet should be made compulsory".

Thalaivar humorously replied that a campaign would be launched that he was favouring a helmet company to earn profit and said the habit of wearing helmet should come automatically to those who care for their life. Dr. Ramamurthi said that many people don't wear helmets out of fear of loss of hair. "I asked them which is more important – your life or your hair?" So, all youths should mandatorily wear helmet to protect their lives.

The price of motor cycles has come on par with that of cars; some bikes are even costlier. All cannot ride these bikes. Full training and talent are needed. We see parents who have lost their children after getting them these costly bikes. Parents too should be careful in the purchase of bikes to their wards. While travelling by car, the seat-belt should be fastened. High speed travel should be avoided. More than all these, road rules should be followed without fail. Some people consider it below their dignity to stop the vehicle when the traffic signal turns red.

Some think that by observing road discipline one is obeying the police. Actually, the observance of road rules by an individual is a sign of social culture and discipline. When people evince such social culture, we will certainly and definitely make for an accident-free Thamizhagam. To create such a state, not only people like us but you too should also join hands with us. I affectionately request you to take a vow to stand by this scheme. I conclude my speech extending once again my hearty thanks for providing an opportunity to meet you all in this event.

Earlier, on the way to Melmaruvathur to participate in the Government function, the Hon'ble Chief Minister visited the special Corona vaccination camp at the upgraded Primary Health Centre at Nandhivaram, reviewed and enquired about the vaccination details from the health staff.

The 15th Corona vaccination special camp is held today across the State. Till 17.12.2021, the number of persons administered Corona vaccination was 7,85,50,493; in the first phase 4,81,57,452 persons and in the second phase 3,03,93,041 persons were vaccinated.

After inaugurating the scheme, the Hon'ble Chief Minister visited the Adhiparasakthi Trust Hospital and declared open the Emergency Treatment Ward for this scheme. He visited a patient named Ranganathan getting treated in the hospital for injuries in a road accident, Ranganathan, enquired about his health and directed doctors to treat Ranganathan under this new scheme.

The dreams of the differently abled people are coming to fruition

It is said that one never tires of the sight of the sea.
We have created a temporary path to the sea
so that the desires of the disabled
who thought of dipping their feet in the ocean
at least once, may come to fruition.
We will make the path a permanent one soon.
This is a small task;
But it is the beginning of a big change.

- Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Thiru. M.K.Stalin's Social Media Post
(28.12.2021).

Hon'ble Chief Minister unveils statue of Perasiriyar, names Finance Department complex after him

Perasiriyar K.Anbazhagan, affectionately called 'Inamana Perasiriyar' by Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar and 'Perasiriyar Thambi' by Perarignar Anna, was born to Kalyana Sundaranar and Sornambal on December 19, 1922 at Kattur Village in Tiruvarur District.

Attracted during his student days by the socio-reform principles of Thanthai Periyar and the spirited Tamil oratory power of Perarignar Anna, Perasiriyar Anbazhagan dedicated himself to public life.

Due to his intense passion for Tamil right from his school days, he completed his Post Graduate course in Tamil in the Annamalai University. Bowing to the kind request of Perarignar Anna, he served as the Assistant Professor from 1944 to 1957 in Pachaiyappa College.

It is not an exaggeration to say that Perasiriyar Anbazhagan played a key role in involving students in politics as he felt that their role in creating awareness

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M. K. Stalin** named a building at the Integrated Finance Department Complex in Nandanam after Perasiriyar K. Anbazhagan and unveiled his statue, as part of Perasiriyar's 100th birth anniversary celebrations, on 19.12.2021.

in politics, language and race affinity was significant. During his university days and while serving as Assistant Professor, he was attracted towards the Dravidian Movement, and involved himself in it. His participation at a function of Perarignar Anna was a turning point in his life. In 1962 he became a Member of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Council, he was an MP from 1967 to 1971 and Member of the Legislative Assembly for 9 terms. When Dr. Kalaignar was the Chief Minister of the State, he held the portfolios of Health, Finance, Education, and Social Welfare and implemented many welfare schemes through his experience and farsightedness.

The first meeting between Perasiriyar Anbazhagan and Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar took place at the Sikander function, jointly organized by Islamic youth at Vijayapuram in Tiruvarur. In the year 1942, the friendship that started on that day continued for 75 long years. Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar described their friendship as that of twin brothers.

Because of his love for Tamil, he changed his original name from Ramaiah to Anbazhagan. "First, I am a human being. Secondly, I am Anbazhagan. Thirdly, I am a follower of the self-respect movement. Fourthly, I am a younger brother of Perarignar Anna and fifthly I am a companion of Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar. These heartfelt affiliations will continue till I am alive" Perasiriyar Anbazhagan would say whenever he referred to himself. About Hon'ble Chief Minister Thiru. M.K.Stalin, Perasiriyar Anbazhgan said that "Thiru. Stalin, like his father, had hard work, hard work and only hard work as his guiding principle. In public life, Thiru. Stalin rose from the position of MLA, Mayor of Chennai Corporation, Local Administration Minister, Deputy Chief Minister, to the post of the Hon'ble Chief Minister. He is never late and is never wanting in the performance of his duties. In the Legislative Assembly, he always speaks with statistics and replies with confidence.

Though Perasiriyar Anbazhagan set many records in politics and in administrative service, he never gave up writing. Having begun writing in 1948 through the monthly magazine 'Pudhuvazhvu', he authored more than 40 books on subjects like social reform, the Tamil language, Rights of Tamils, Thanthai Periyar, Perarignar Anna and Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar. His books including 'Marriage of Tamils and Racial Self Respect ', 'You can be an orator too', 'Vazhga Dravidam' and 'History of the Dravidian Movement' are avidly read to this day.

The Dravidian Movement, which began with the Justice Party, has a long history of more than hundred years and many Dravidian leaders made their contributions to the Tamil language, Tamil Nadu and Tamil society. But it was during the period of Perasiriyar Anbazhagan, that students were attracted to politics and political change.

To commemorate the birth centenary of Perasiriyar Anbazhagan on 19.12.2021, Hon'ble Chief Minister Thiru. M.K.Stalin, unveiled the statue of Perasiriyar Anbazhagan at a function at the Integrated Finance Department Complex in Nandanam and named the financial complex of 1,20,000 sq.ft area, which houses 15 State Government Departments, including Pension Directorate, Commissionerate of Treasuries and Accounts, Small Savings Departments, Local Body and Co-operative Audit Departments, after Perasiriyar Anbazhagan and handed over the Royalty amount of Perasiriyar Anbazhagan's books to his family members. ■

DMK Government will protect the rights of minorities and promote their welfare

"When somebody asks you something, give him what he wants and when somebody slaps you on your cheek, show him the other cheek," said Jesus Christ, whose principles of compassion, forgiveness, non-violence, and love for opponents and returning good for evil are worthy of emulation at all times. The birth anniversary of Jesus Christ who was such a jewel of a humanitarian is celebrated by Christians all over the world as a major festival. This festival is being celebrated with the avowed principle that love and peace must prevail in the lives of people. Gifts are exchanged during the festival to share love and people in need are helped. We see the principle of equality shine during the festival.

The Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam and the DMK Government have always worked hand in hand in promoting the well-being and protecting the rights of the Christian community which has made an important contribution towards education in Tamil Nadu and to Tamil literature. The DMK Government will continue in the same path and protect the rights of the minorities.

I appeal to the community people to follow the Corona guidelines of maintaining social distance and to celebrate the Christmas festival safely.

- Christmas greetings of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K.Stalin** on 24.12.2022 *(English Translation)*.

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K.Stalin** at the Christmas celebrations organized by the Christhuva Nallenna Iyakkam at the Santhome Higher Secondary School, Chennai, after he inaugurated Christmas Kudil and distributed welfare benefits, on 20.12.2021*(English Translation)*.

Thiru. T.Inigo Irudayaraj, MLA, president of the Christhuva Nallenna Iyakkam, who has been instrumental in organizing this function and made arrangements for distribution of welfare measures;

Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education Dr.K.Ponmudi, Hon'ble Minister for Health and Family Welfare Thiru. Ma.Subramanian; Hon'ble Minister for Minorities Welfare and Non-Resident Tamils Welfare Thiru. Gingee K.S.Masthan, Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare and Women Empowerment Tmt. P. Geetha Jeevan, Tamil Nadu Textbook and Educational Services Corporation Chairman Thiru. Dindigul Leoni, MLAs Thiru. E.Karunanidhi, Thiru. Idream Murthy, Thiru. Prabhakar Raja, Thiru. Aaassan Maulaana and Thiru. Mylai T.Velu and Chairman of the Tamil Nadu Minorities Commission, my beloved Thiru. Peter Alphonse, Vice-President of the Tamil Nadu Bishop's Council Hon'ble Dr. A.Neethinathan, Thiru. A.Dharmaraj Rasalam of Church of South India, Thiru. Balaprajapathi of Ayya Vazhi, leaders belonging to various faiths, Bishops, brothers and sisters of Minority Communities, who have always stood with us and my dear Dr. Kalaignar's brothers, at the outset my warm welcome to all of you.

I am really proud and happy to participate in this Christmas function organized by Christhuva Nallenna Iyakkam and Thiru. Inigo Irudayaraj, MLA, who has brought me before you to participate in this function;

Every year Thiru. Inigo Irudayaraj invited Dr. Kalaignar for the Christmas function. At that time, I always accompanied Dr.Kalaignar. Even when Dr.Kalaignar fell ill and after his demise, I attended the function. It was not necessary to give the date in advance for the function. It was enough if he said that he had organized the Christmas function; he would always organize the function on the given available date. This function is very close to my heart. There is a lot of difference between this function and other functions, however largely attended those functions are. In his speech, Thiru. Peter Alphonse explained the differences of sentiment that are involved.

You all know that we always stood with Christians, as well as all minority community people. There is no need for us to explain our stand. You all know it well.

How much importance we give to minority community people is known from the fact that we had fielded Thiru. Inigo Irudayaraj on behalf of the DMK in the last Assembly election and got him elected to the Assembly.

We want Thiru. Inigo Irudayaraj to represent the minority community in the Assembly. He always has a place in my heart; now he has a place in the Assembly. I don't know what will happen tomorrow.

Immediately after the party came to power, the DMK Government revived the Minorities Commission and made Thiru. Peter Alphonse as the Chairman of the Commission. He is a good orator as well as a good writer. Under his leadership the Commission is functioning well. I am also monitoring the functions of the Commission. Just like Peter Alphonse congratulated me for my work, I reciprocate my sentiments to him. The present DMK Government has begun to protect the interests of minorities.

'Christians' or 'minorities' is only a symbolic appellation. Worship is one's individual wish. But we are all Tamils by language. It is a cultural link among us. It is only in that spirit that we have assembled here.

All religions advocate love. Christianity has also been advocating love again and again. The essence of all religions is that we should all love each other. We also support such sentiments. We don't criticize them.

Love is above caste. Love is above religion. Love is above language. Love is above colour. Love is above gender. Those who recognize such a love are worthy of acceptance. Those who foster differences are to be rejected. I congratulate organizations like the Christhuva Nallenna Iyakkam for laying the foundation for such humanistic and humanitarian tendencies to grow and for conducting their activities in that direction.

It is as the expression of such love that welfare measures are to be distributed here. We will help those who need help. It is on that basis that welfare measures are to be given.

In a Nation where the population is large, it is not possible for the Government alone to meet the demands of the people. Organizations like this one should complement the efforts of the Government.

Whenever Irudayaraj organizes a function, he does not make it a religious function. On the other hand, he uses the opportunity to distribute assistance to the poor and the needy. He does the same in this forum also.

It is known to all that the DMK is leading a Government which is governed by love, sympathy and compassion.

- It was Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar, who in the year 1972 extended the Backward Class concessions to the first and the second generations of Converted Adi Dravida Christians;
- Dr. Kalaignar formed the Minorities Welfare Commission in the year 1989;
- In 1990, Dr.Kalaignar formed Minorities Welfare Council under chairmanship of Abdul Jaffar;
- In 1999, Dr. Kalaignar formed Tamil Nadu Minorities Economic Development Corporation;
- Dr. Kalaignar formed Social Reforms Department;
- In 2007, Dr.Kalaignar formed Minorities Welfare Iyakkam;
- Dr.Kalaignar extended distribution of free books, uniforms to all Christian students in schools;
- In 2010, Dr. Kalaignar brought Minorities Commission Act.

I have only mentioned the concessions extended to Minority community people.

- When I was the Local Administration Minister and the Deputy Chief Minister, for the betterment of Self Help Groups, I constructed a separate building for the SHGs and the building was inaugurated by the then Chief Minister Dr.Kalaignar, who named the building after Annai Teresa. That building is now standing tall near Valluvar Kottam in Nungambakkam.
- In the year 2003, the Tamil Nadu Minorities Economic Development Corporation was closed by the then Government, which was again revived by the DMK Government in 2006, when it came to power again.

This sort of history has started again.

The Minorities Department and the Minorities Commission have started many schemes. We have started to set right the setbacks that had occurred in various Departments in the past ten years. Neutral people have started saying that we have completed things in 5 months which they had not achieved in 5 years.

Before the Assembly elections, we made more than 500 promises. Of these, 300 promises have been fulfilled. Despite financial burden, we were able to provide assistance and implement schemes for the people. I won't cheat myself and you by saying that we have fulfilled all our promises. But we will fulfill all our promises and there is no doubt in it.

The Government of Tamil Nadu has got a good name in the heart of the people as it has been meeting the requirements of the poor, the needy, tribals, differently-abled persons, transgenders and children.

Love is the only law in life. The Government would act as per the law. I am happy to say that the current function is creating such a feeling.

Thiru. Inigo Irudayaraj has been organizing the Christmas function for the past 12 years and helped us in participating in the function in a zealous manner. Every year he has been organizing the function. There is no doubt in it; every year I am going to attend the function.

Sometimes, I may have two or three other functions along with this Christmas function, in which I was made the chief guest. Please don't call me the Chief Guest. I would like to be with you and don't want to be isolated from you. I have attended the function as Mayor of the Corporation, as MLA, as Minister, as Deputy Chief Minister and I am attending it as Chief Minister.

Once again I thank Inigo Irudayaraj for giving me this opportunity to participate in the function. With this I conclude my speech and my wishes to all of you.

Hon'ble Chief Minister starts in awareness drive for revival of the good old yellow bag

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M. K. Stalin** at the inaugural of the 'Revival of Yellow Bag Awareness Movement' held at Kalaivanar Arangam, Chennai on 23.12.2021.

Thiru. Siva. V. Meyyanathan, Hon'ble Minister for Environment-Climate Change and Youth Welfare and Sports Development who has delivered the presidential speech for the inaugural of the Awareness Movement for the 'Revival of Yellow Bag', Thiru.P.K. Sekar Babu, Hon'ble Minister for HR & CE, Thiru. K.R. Periakaruppan, Hon'ble Minister for Rural Development, Thiru. Dayanidhi Maran, Member of Parliament for Central Chennai Constituency, Tmt. Supriya Sahu I.A.S., Principal Secretary, Department of Environment-Climate Change and Forests who delivered the welcome address, Thiru. Udhayan, I.F.S., Chairman of the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Ms. Karin Christina Maria Stoll, Consul General, Consulate of Germany in Chennai, officers of the Department of forests, Government officials, Police Department Officials and Media friends, Members of Trade Organizations, Dear sisters who are members of women self-help groups, school students, elders assembled here, ladies, affectionate siblings dearer than life to Thalaivar Kalaignar, who is my all and beyond – I extend my loving greetings to all of you.

I am proud and very happy to inaugurate the awareness event for 'Revival of Yellow Bag'.

There was a time when the yellow bag raised the question: "Any important event in the house?; Have you brought a marriage invitation?".

Then the plastic bag era started and the situation changed. The yellow bag was considered infra dig.

Some people began to mock those carrying yellow bags as bumpkins; in cinemas and TV serials also, holding a yellow bag in the armpit helped identify the character as a yokel.

Competing commercial institutions also brought forth beautiful plastic bags in different designs. These bags reduced people's usage of the yellow bag.

After a campaign was launched identifying the yellow bag as environment-friendly and the beautiful and modern plastic bags as harmful to the environment, the usage of cloth bags has increased. The present awareness campaign is to boost this trend.

Today, we are in a situation in which we have to give the same importance to the environment as we do for growth. Harming the environment means pushing humanity into irretrievable sorrow.

In my speech at the birthday event of agriculture scientist M.S. Swaminathan, I stressed the fact that the environment is the biggest problem of humanity. It is plastic that plays the greatest havoc with the environment. Such plastic use should be totally curtailed.

The yellow bag is here now. We get cotton from the cotton plant. From cotton, yarn is produced and it is woven into a cloth. A bag is stitched out of it. When the bag is torn, it is used in the house as a mopping cloth/door-mat. Our women, known for their thrift, will use it fully. After that, it is thrown away and decomposes. But as plastic is not bio-degradable it does not decompose but harms the environment.

- Today's greatest challenge to the environment is from 'use and throw' plastic articles.
- These articles pollute earth, water and air.
- Plastic takes several years to decompose when it is thrown on the ground.
- This spoils the soil; when the soil is spoiled, agriculture is affected; livestock too die by consuming discarded plastic items.
- Aquatic species are affected if plastic is thrown into water bodies.
- It also causes Water pollution.
- Marine ecology is affected by the dumping of 'use and throw' plastic articles in the sea. Species in the sea die after consuming plastic articles.
- Incineration of disposable plastic poisons the air through the emission of dioxins.
- Persons inhaling it suffer from breathing difficulties and lung damages.

We have to put a stop to plastic usage that creates so much damage. The Government of Tamil Nadu is taking many steps to reduce plastic usage.

- The Government of Tamil Nadu has banned the usage of 14 types of 'use and throw' plastic articles, their production, storage, distribution, transportation and sale.

- Instructions have been given to use alternative decomposable articles conducive to Nature.
- Order has been issued to take action against those defying Government rules.
- So far, electricity has been disconnected to 130 factories which produced the banned plastic articles.

In continuation of this, the Government has embarked upon various awareness campaigns.

- The Government of Tamil Nadu is continuing the various awareness programmes launched by it to wean away people from using banned single-use plastic articles.
- Awareness about eschewing the use of single-use plastics was created in super-markets, hotels, marriage halls, factories, Government companies like TASMAC, Departments of HR & CE and Food Safety, as well as among Eco Clubs and National Green Corps.
- Zonal conferences have been conducted in big cities under the title 'Plastic pollution-free Tamil Nadu'.
- Awareness has been created through mobile exhibition.
- Uninterrupted campaigns are undertaken in social websites.
- Big industries have been instructed to create awareness among small and micro industries.
- The Government of Tamil Nadu made an announcement during the Legislative Assembly session on 03.09.2021 for a people's movement for the eradication of 'use and throw' plastics. A Government Order was issued on November 27 last year.

The Government alone cannot implement this task. The Government is of the firm opinion that people too should join in. People should stop using the banned plastic products. Only if the people decide, can this change be brought about.

Our Muthamizh Arignar Thalaivar Kalaignar gave us these golden lines: 'Inner purity fosters truthfulness; external purity nurtures life'. I request all people to follow this dictum.

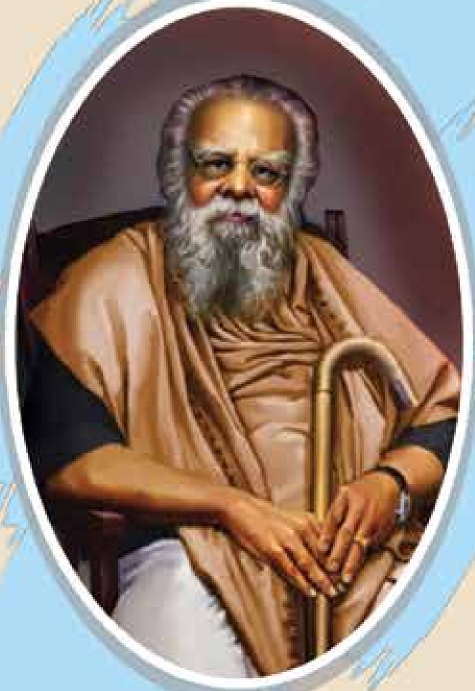
Tamil Nadu is in the forefront in all fields; it should be so in the protection of the environment also.

Let us safeguard Nature! Let us function with Nature and in harmony with it. Let us put a full stop to plastics, the despoiler of Nature.

The Yellow bag is not an object of shame. It proclaims the identity of the person who protects the environment. Let us demonstrate this. With these words, I conclude my speech.

Nandri! Vanakkam!

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru.M.K.Stalin** received the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Telangana **Thiru. K.Chandrashekar Rao**, when the latter called on him at his residence on 14.12.2022.



We pledge ourselves to protect the self-respect of Tamils

We pledge ourselves to save the honour of Tamils, whose pride had been suppressed for over thousands of years by dominant forces. It was Thanthai Periyar who removed the shackles of slavery by saying that self-respect is the only way to remove these shackles. On his memorial day, we take the pledge that by following the Dravidian principles we will thwart the evil designs of dominant forces!

- Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K. Stalin's** Social Media post

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu ***Thiru. M.K.Stalin*** *paid floral tribute to the portrait of Thanthai Periyar on his 48th death anniversary placed near his statue at Anna Salai, Chennai on 24.12.2021.*

Hon'ble Chief Minister unveils Navalar statue

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K. Stalin** unveiled the statue of Navalar Nedunchezhian, in connection with the valedictory of the centenary celebrations of Navalar R.Nedunchezhian at the new guest house building at Chepauk, Chennai on 26.12.2021 and handed over the royalty amount for his nationalized books.

Navalar Nedunchezhian was hailed by Thanthai Periyar as, 'One of the eminent rationalists; he was qualified to take lessons for me also'; by Perarignar Perunthagai Anna as, 'Come, younger brother! Good man famed for your oratory, take over the leadership'; as by Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar: 'You are an orator famed in the Country, you are a protector of the Tamil language, a talented speaker whose language, humour and oratorical skill attract people' and as by Inamaana Perasiriyar: 'A gentleman eager to learn, enthusiastic to get clarification of what is learnt, full of zeal in examining truth and joyful in explaining what he has learnt'.

Navalar was born in the undivided Thanjavur District at Thirukannapuram on 11.07.1920, to Rasagopalanar and Meenakshi. Out of profound love for the Tamil language, he changed his name R.Narayanasamy to R.Nedunchezhian. As a result of his unbound love for the mother tongue Tamil during his days of education, he became a master in all Tamil literary works as well as the epics. Thanthai Periyar's boldness in questioning the distress and injustice that prevailed in society in those days attracted Navalar to him and he joined Periyar's Dravidian Movement in 1944 at the young age of 24.

Navalar Nedunchezhian's linguistic knowledge, extraordinary oratorical skill, concern for social welfare, unswerving self-respect and rationalism, his loyalty to the policy and goal of the Dravidian Movement and his tireless

service to people made him highly regarded by Thanthai Periyar and Perarignar Perunthagai Anna and made him one of the five great leaders of the Movement in a very short time.

The contribution of Navalar Nedunchezhian and Inamaana Perasiriyar K. Anbazhagan to the coming to power of the Dravidian Movement in the State was immense as they understood the great part of students in changing the Government, politics and in the language agitation. Navalar continued to publish the magazine 'Mandram' to sow the seeds of Dravidian ideology and social reform in the hearts of the youth.

In the midst of relentless political and administrative works, he wrote countless stories, essays and more than 30 books as he never forsook the habit of writing in beautiful Tamil. Particularly, his books 'Paavendar Kavithaigal', 'Thirukkural Thelivurai', 'Pathupaattu Aaraaichi', 'Puranaanootru Pudaiyal', 'Kalithogai Tharum Kaadhal Kaatchigal' and 'Kurunthogai Kuritha Sollum Suvaiyum' are talked about in literary circles even today. 'Dravida Iyakka Varalaaru', 'Samooga Needhi Poar' and 'Panpaadu Potruvome' are his other popular books.

He put in his best as Education Minister, both in Perarignar Anna's rule (1967-1969) and in Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar's rule (1971-1975). Later, he moved to the AIADMK and performed

excellently as Food Minister and Finance Minister. He cherished rationalism as his very life till the last.

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M.K. Stalin has stated, "Let the intellectual Tamil world and members of the Dravidian Movement happily celebrate the valedictory of the centenary of Navalar who was a veritable walking encyclopaedia". The unveiling of his statue on December 26, 2021 at the new guest house in Chepauk, Chennai was in fulfillment of the announcement made in the Legislative Assembly. The Hon'ble Chief Minister also released a special souvenir got up for the occasion. ■

" We acclaim our pleasant comrade Nedunchezhiyan for assenting to write for and publish the monthly journal 'Mandram'. As he has the intellect and scholarship to write well, let us accept his views as greatly beneficial to us. May Mandram thrive for all time. Long live Nedunchezhiyanar!"

– Gist of Puratchi Kavignar Bharatidasan's poetic tribute from 'Dr.Navalar Pavala Vizha Malar' (1995)

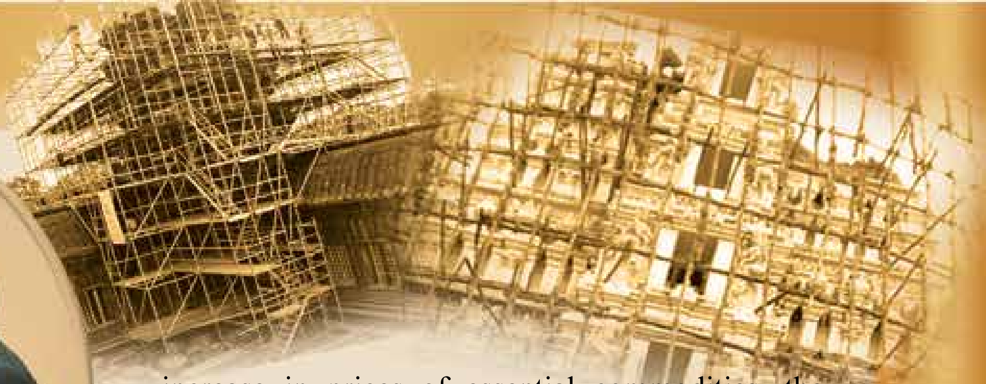
Subsidy allowance increased for Devasthanam temples in Kanniyakumari, Pudukkottai Districts

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K Stalin**, handed over a cheque for Rs. 6 crore to the Joint Commissioner and Executive Officer of the Kanniyakumari Devasthanam Temples, Thiru. Gnanasekar and a cheque for Rs. 3 crore to the Joint Commissioner of Pudukkottai Samasthanam, Thiru. K.Thennarasu and the Executive Officer, Thiru. K.Saravanan, by way of increasing the subsidy amount for the maintenance and administration of these 490 temples, at the Secretariat on 27.12.2021, on behalf of the HR and CE Department.

When the States were reorganized on linguistic basis, Shenkottai Taluk was attached to the Kanniyakumari and Tirunelveli Districts. At that time, 490 temples in these two Districts were brought under the control of the Kanniyakumari Devaswom Board. The present amount of Rs. 3 crore for the administration and maintenance expenses of these temples is not sufficient.

So the Government issued a Government order on 22.10.2021 increasing the subsidy amount from Rs. 3 crore to Rs. 6 crore.

Similarly, there are 225 temples under the control of the Pudukkottai Devasthanam. The maintenance expenses of the temples were met through the income from 35,500 acres of wetlands in 35 villages, classified as Pujai Pathu Maniyam, Ulthurai Sevai Maniyam and own lands belonging to the temples. As there was no sufficient income from these sources, these lands were handed over to the Government. As compensation, the Government issued a Government order in the year 1897, sanctioning Rs. 1.18 lakh for the maintenance expenses of the temples. This



was subsequently increased to Rs. one crore from 30.11.2011. Taking into consideration the increase in prices of essential commodities, the Government has now increased the subsidy to Rs. 3 crore from Rs. 1 crore.

With a view to implement the Government order, the Hon'ble Chief Minister handed over the increased subsidy cheque of Rs. 6 crore to the Kanniyakumari temples and a cheque for Rs. 3 crore to the temples in Pudukkottai District for the maintenance and administration expenses of these temples.

Monthly incentive amount raised for students of temple religious services

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K.Stalin**, at the Secretariat on 24.12.2021, on behalf of the HR and CE Department, handed over the increased incentive amount of Rs. 3,000 to 18 students of Archakar, Odhuvar, Prabanda Vinnapar, Vedaparayanar and Isai Karpor (Thavil and Nadaswaram) training schools, as a mark of inaugurating the new incentive scheme. Earlier, these students were getting an incentive of Rs. 1,000, which has now been increased to Rs. 3,000.

While presenting the budget demand for the HR and CE Department for the year 2021-2022, it was announced that the incentive amount for the students of Archakar, Odhuvar, Prabanda Vinnapar, Vedaparayanar and Isai Karpor (Thavil and Nadaswaram) Training schools will be increased from Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 3,000.

As per the announcement, 18 students of the Palani Arulmigu Dandayudhapani Swami Temple and Mylapore Arulmigu Kapaleeswarar Temple Vedaparayanar School, 24 students of Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple and Tiruvannamalai Arulmigu Arunachaleswarar Temple Odhuvar Training school and 25 students of Palani Arulmigu Dandayuthapani Swami Temple Thavil and Nadaswara training school, totally 67 students will get the incentive amount. As a mark of inaugurating the incentive amount scheme, the Hon'ble Chief Minister handed over the increased incentive of Rs. 3,000 to 18 students.

Welfare assistance of Rs. 327.48 crore to 45,344 beneficiaries

Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurates completed works, lays foundation for new scheme works in Tiruchi District

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K. Stalin** launched 203 scheme works completed at an estimate of Rs. 153.22 crore, laid the foundation stone for 532 new scheme works costing Rs. 604.10 crore and distributed Government welfare assistance to the extent of Rs. 327.48 crore to 45,344 beneficiaries, at a Government function at Tiruchirapalli on 30.12.2021.

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K. Stalin** at the event *(English Translation)*.

Hon'ble Minister for Municipal Administration Thiru. K.N. Nehru who is conducting this event along with Governments welfare assistance and laying foundation stone for several welfare scheme functions also, with a sense of responsibility and with the feeling that this should be successful, Hon'ble Ministers Thiruvalargal K. Ponmudi, S. Regupathy, Ma. Subramanian, P. Moorthy and S.S. Sivasankar, Hon'ble Minister for School Education Thiru. Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi who has delivered a felicitation address, Hon'ble Minister Thiru. Siva. V. Meyyanathan, Special Representative at Delhi Thiru. A.K.S. Vijayan, Hon'ble Government Chief Whip Dr. Govi. Chezhiaan, Leader of the DMK party in the Rajya Sabha Thiru. N. Siva, Tiruchi Member of Parliament Thiru. S. Thirunavukkarasar, Karur Parliament Member Selvi S. Jothimani, Rajya Sabha Member Pudukkottai Thiru. Abdullah, Members of the Legislative Assembly Thiruvalargal M.Palaniyandi, M. Soundarapandian, S. Stalinkumar, N. Thiyagarajan, S. Inigo Irudayaraj, S. Kathiravan, B. Abdul Samad, Salem Rajendran, Kudanthai Anbalagan, Durai Chandrasekaran, former members of Parliament and Legislative Assembly, Executive Representatives in Local Administration, People's Representatives, Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Municipal Administration and Water Supply Thiru. Shiv Das Meena I.A.S. who has outlined the purpose of this event/scheme, Commissioner of Town Panchayats Thiru. R. Selvaraj I.A.S., Director of Municipal Administration Thiru. P. Ponniah I.A.S., Managing Director of the Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage Board Thiru. V. Dakshinamoorthy I.A.S., District Collector Thiru. S. Sivarasu I.A.S. who delivered the welcome address earlier, District Panchayat President Thiru. Rajendran, High Officers of the various Government Departments, staff, Elders, Ladies, particularly my dear sister members of the women Self Help Groups, Print world and Media friends, Corporation Commissioner Thiru.Mujibur Rahman who is to propose a vote of thanks – I extend my affectionate greetings to all of you.

I have today come to participate in the function to distribute Government welfare assistance at Tiruchi where Kings Viswanathar and Muthuveerappan raised their Forts, Chanda Saheb waged a heroic battle, Rani Mangammal gave an excellent rule, the Lion of Erode, the effulgent rationalist Thanthai Periyar constructed a bungalow and resided, and Muthamizh Arignar Thalaivar Kalaignar who occupies every inch of our heart was raised to the position of leadership. I have come to Tiruchi on many occasions – marriage events, public meetings, DMK party events, Government functions and in conferences and addressed lakhs of cadres, 'udan pirappugal'. But today I have come to participate in a people's conference as Chief Minister.

Hon'ble Minister for Municipal Administration Thiru. Nehru has once again brought a sea of people here. Brother Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi said here, I have stated many times that organizing a meeting like a conference is an ordinary matter for him – like sipping a cup of tea in a tea stall. 'Nehru means conference and vice versa' – that was my many time remark about him. I have also stated that there is no one to compete with Nehru. What I meant when I stated that the conference is synonymous with Nehru, is that he will meet the enemy directly and embrace the friend equally in the same manner. This statement which I made from the dais and whenever I came to Tiruchi, is now echoing from Rock Fort.

Some days back Nehru conducted a similar event in Salem. Though our members of Legislature and Parliament, party executives, representatives of local administration set ups and Government officers are instrumental for that event, it was Nehru who took the responsibility and conducted it in a systematic, rich, enthusiastic, ardent and majestic way. The priority he gave to Salem over Tiruchi shows his greatness. After marriage, some women will give greater priority to the house of in-laws and there is nothing wrong in it. Like that, Nehru prioritized the in-laws' home of Salem and without forgetting the native home of Tiruchi came here and conducted the event in an equal grand manner.

Hon'ble Ministers Nehru and Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi went round Tiruchi District like twins and collected 78,582 petitions from people. After scrutiny and review, redressals were found for 45,088 petitions and the rest of the petitions are being examined. I wish to firmly inform you that eligible petitions among those getting examined, will be given redressed cent per cent.

My aim is to create an environment where no individual will place a demand on the Government. Government welfare measures, services should reach all people. A confidence, an ambience should be created that if a demand is presented to the Government, it will certainly be fulfilled.

We have taken action on thousands of petitions but the reality is we are getting petitions again and again from people. I firmly declare now, that we will never stop this cycle. Some people may attribute it to initial enthusiasm. But I say confidentially we will remain so forever. We will not go back from this on any account.

I wish to mention to you only a few of the big schemes for the Tiruchi District. We have framed these schemes considering the rapid development of the Tiruchi Corporation.

- Underground drainage schemes will be implemented in the left-out areas of Tiruchi Corporation at a cost of Rs. 210 crore.
- A modern sewage treatment plant with a capacity of 100 mld is proposed to be set up at Panchapur at an estimate of Rs. 200 crore.

- I have directed the preparation of a detailed project report for a new bridge between Tiruchi and Thiruvarangam as the existing one has become old and laying a new outer ring road from the Tiruchi Court Roundtana to Sunnambukaranpatti. After getting the report, these works will also be started shortly.
- A new water supply scheme costing Rs.100 crore will be implemented for the people of Thuraiyur Corporation.
- Manapparai combined water supply scheme will be upgraded further at an estimate of Rs.18 crore.

I have only briefly mentioned such big schemes.

As for Tiruchi, 203 completed schemes costing Rs.153.22 crore have come up for people's use. I have laid the foundation stone today for 532 works to be executed at a cost of Rs.604.10 crore. They will be completed shortly and dedicated to the people. The speed with which these works are executed will be reviewed not only by the Minister of this District but by myself too as a Chief Minister and will expedite it. This morning, a similar Government event took place at Thanjavur. I mentioned it very clearly. In present times big gatherings should not be allowed to take place. Even if there is such an assemblage, you should come there wearing a mask; all standard operating procedures should be observed. We have controlled Corona to some extent, though not fully.

A new virus called Omicron has come now. Shocking news is coming out (about it) in foreign countries. Some states in India have been affected. For the last two days, it has been emerging in Tamil Nadu also. I was concerned whether these events in Thanjavur and Tiruchi would become the cause for the spread of this virus. I summoned Nehru and Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi to Chennai and told them the present situation had forced us to consider restricting the gathering at Thanjavur to 20,000 to 25,000 and at Tiruchi to 45,344. In a magnanimous response they stated that they had not invited so many people and that the event had to be conducted with just 25 per cent of that number – that is 5,000 – observing the social distancing norm. They stated there was nothing wrong in it and accordingly the event took place in Thanjavur and is taking place now in Tiruchi. Welfare assistance is to have been distributed to 44,645 beneficiaries today alone but only 5,000 persons have been invited. The welfare assistance will be distributed at the end of this function. The rest of the beneficiaries need not worry. We have already consulted Ministers and Officers and a decision has been taken. Within 3 days from today, I wish to state, officers and our people's representatives will hand over the welfare assistance at their house to the rest of the beneficiaries. This is certain. The total value of the assistance is Rs.327.48 crore. So, this event alone is covering the launching of schemes, laying the foundation stone and distribution of welfare assistance, all worth Rs.1,084.80 crore. I am really satisfied. I am providing an administration without any conflict with my conscience, with a strength derived from people's welfare and with pride.

It will require just 10 to 15 minutes to reach this place from where I stay. But, it has taken two to two-and-a-half hours. What is the reason? Mahesh spoke of it; Thiru. Siva made a particular mention of it. The general public, men, women, youth, elders, differently abled persons, some with visual disabilities thronged on either side of the road and welcomed me with happiness. As stated here, they hailed me with honorific titles. I felt very happy. I was exuberant.

But at the same time a fear overtook me. How are we going to sustain so much confidence placed on us? This was the thought that came to me. We have heard about Manuneedhi Chozhan everywhere. Today I have the opportunity to go round

and become a Chozhan collecting 'manu(s)' (petitions). Sometimes, these petitions reach me after a lot of jostling in the crowd. On seeing this, I suggested to our friends, party cadre and Government officers to collect the petitions in advance so that I could receive them later. This would resolve the problem easily. Some people hand over the petitions in this way; some others don't. People have today developed a confidence that handing over the petition in my hands alone will resolve their problem.

Participation in the distribution of welfare assistance to beneficiaries has testified that these events continue to be conducted in the spirit of seeing God in the smiles of the poor.

Earlier to the conduct of the Legislative Assembly election, our Minister Nehru conducted a meeting that resembled a conference. At that meeting I gave 7 promises and today we are running the Government as per those promises.

I said: "the next Government to be formed, headed by the DMK will be one that promotes social justice, desired by Thanthai Periyar; it will be a state autonomy rule of Perarignar Anna; it will be a modern Government for development as envisioned by our Muthamizh Arignar Thalaivar Kalaignar; it will be a rule for development of education as desired by Perunthalaivar Kamarajar; and it will be a rule for equality as desired by comrade Jeeva." We have not only set up such a regime but are running it.

I also stated in that meeting the schemes that will be prioritized if the DMK formed the Government. I gave 7 promises and clearly stated the priorities that will be given to their fulfilment.

- Growing opportunities –prosperous Tamil Nadu!
- Increase in (crop) yield – happy farmer!
- Enough (drinking) water for all citizens!
- Higher education and high class medical treatment for all!
- A State of beautiful (municipal) Corporations!
- High class Rural framework, High Standard of Living!
- Thamizhagam – a State that provides all things for all people!

In the last six months Memoranda of Understanding have been signed for a large number of new industries. Thousands of youth are going to get job opportunities due to this. Industrial growth of Tamil Nadu is going to achieve a very great target.

As we have stated in our election manifesto, we have tabled an exclusive agriculture budget, not done by any state in India so far, with the presentation of the very first Budget itself and thus have proved our claim. Special attention is being given to the agriculture sector. We are helping lakhs of farmers to increase their yield through provision of free power connection. All village programmes are being revived and funds allotted. New colleges have been announced. Countless schemes are being announced from Makkalai thedi Maruthuvam scheme to ultra-modern hospitals. Under the urban development schemes, infrastructure facilities, roads and bridges have been announced and works have started on them.

We have started giving the same importance to social development, improving living standards and development of women, as it is done for industrial development. I wish to tell the people of Tiruchi that from this perspective, I have started implementing the promises I made in Tiruchi prior to the election.

I had mentioned even then: "We can do it; we alone can do it". That pre-election confidence has grown manifold now. Managing the severe financial constraints, we are implementing

social development schemes by prioritizing them. While assuming office, the Corona virus engulfed the state cruelly. Later, there was rain and flood damage. We got over all these tests. In all these testing times, I remained with the people as one of them. Not only me, but also the Ministers, Members of Legislature and Parliament, people's representatives in local administration set ups, Government officers and staff – totally, the entire Government, was with the people.

People of Tamil Nadu! Put your demands on our shoulders. We will implement them. Day after tomorrow, the New Year 2022 starts. I wish to state that it is not just a passage of one year to another – from 2021 to 2022. It is putting a stop to the burden and sorrows of the past year and experiencing the birth of an excellent year. Let 2022 be a year that fulfills the desires of all people; let it be a year in which Tamil Nadu shines in all spheres.

An opinion poll was conducted of all Chief Ministers and results were published. I am not happy about it. On one side happiness may be there. That is different. But for me to attain total satisfaction, a situation should come about in which Tamil Nadu is adjudged as the premier state in India rather than saying that M.K.Stalin of Tamil Nadu has captured the first place among Chief Ministers. That alone will make me really happy. So, our Government will continue its duty to make 2022 an excellent year. For that, you should unitedly extend your hand of support.

I take leave, requesting you to co-operate with us to make that happen, and thanking you.

Nandri! Vanakkam!.

Announcement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M.K.Stalin on 28.12.2021 *(English Translation).*

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M.K.Stalin had announced in the Legislative Assembly on 07.09.2021 under Rule 110 that dearness allowance for Government staff, teachers, other workers eligible to receive the allowance, pensioners and family pensioners would be hiked from 01.01.2022.

By way of implementing the announcement, the Hon'ble Chief Minister issued orders on 28.12.2021 for the increase of the allowance by 14 per cent from 01.01.2022 – that is from 17 per cent to 31 per cent. This DA increase will entail Government an additional expenditure of about Rs. 8,724 crore every year.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister also ordered a Pongal cash gift of Rs. 3,000 to 'C' and 'D' category workers, Rs. 500/ to pensioners, Rs.1,000 to workers in special pay matrix and Rs.500 to pensioners who had functioned on special pay inclusive of former village administrative officers. On account of this, the Government will incur an expenditure of about Rs. 169.56 crore.

Even in this situation where the Government of Tamil Nadu is facing a financial burden, the Hon'ble Chief Minister has ordered an increase in DA from 17 per cent to 31 per cent in the interest of Government staff, teachers and pensioners and a Pongal gift to the 'C' and 'D' category workers.

Foundation stone laid for 134 projects worth Rs. 894.56 crore

Hon'ble Chief Minister launches 90 completed projects worth Rs. 98.77 crore for Thanjavur District

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K.Stalin**, inaugurated 90 completed projects, worth Rs. 98.77 crore, laid foundation stones for 134 new projects, worth Rs. 894.56 crore and distributed welfare assistance to 44,525 beneficiaries to the tune of Rs. 238.40 crore, at a Government function held in Mannar Saraboji College Complex in Thanjavur on 30.12.2021.

Speech delivered by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K.Stalin**, after distributing welfare measures, inaugurating completed schemes and laying the foundation stones for new projects *(English Translation)*.

Hon'ble Ministers who are gracing the function in which welfare measures are to be handed over to beneficiaries: Hon'ble Ministers Thiru. K.N.Nehru, Dr.K.Ponmudi, Thiru. S.Regupathy, Thiru.R. Sakkarapani, Thiru.Ma.Subramanian, Thiru. S.S.Sivasankar, Thiru. Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi, in charge of the Thanjavur District, who has successfully fulfilled his duties as the Minister in charge of Thanjavur District, Thiru. Siva. V.Meyyanathan, Hon'ble Government Whip Govi Chezhian, Parliament Members Thiru. S.S Palani Manickam, Thiru. S. Ramalingam, Thiru. S.Shanmugham, Pudukkottai. Thiru. Abdullah, the Tamil Nadu Government's Special Representative in New Delhi, Thiru. A.K.S.Vijayan, Legislative MLAs, Dr. Jawahirullah, Thiru. Durai Chandrasekaran, Thiru. T.K.G.Neelamegam, Thiru. K. Annadurai, Thiru. Poondi Kalaivanan, Thiru. T.R.B.Raja and Thiru. N.Ashok Kumar, District Collector Thiru. Dinesh Ponraj Oliver I.A.S., who welcomed the gathering, Additional Collector (Revenue) Dr. N.O.Sukhaputra, District Panchayat Union Chairman Tmt. Usha Punniyamurthi, Officers belonging to various Government Departments, representatives from the print and visual media, friends from the Police Department, my beloved Self-Help Group members, sisters, and Additional Collector (Development) Thiru. H.S.Srikanth, elders and women who have

gathered in large numbers and beneficiaries of various Government assistance and finally my dear brothers, who are part of my soul and are the affectionate siblings of Dr.Kalaignar.

At the outset I welcome you all.

Thanjavur has the distinction of having the biggest temple, the District has the grand old Anaicut (Kallanai) and Thanjavur shines as the granary of Tamil Nadu, besides being the capital of Chola Kingdom. The river Cauvery flows through it.

To top it all, Thanjavur provided the battle ground for Dr.Kalaignar and trained him as one of the international leaders.

I am really happy to participate in the function and distribute welfare measures to beneficiaries, inaugurate completed projects and lay foundation stones for new projects.

King Rajaraja Cholan constructed the Peruvudaiyar Temple in Thanjavur. For his work, Dr.Kalaignar wanted to honour him by installing the King's statue within the temple premises. But the then Union Government denied permission to install his statue despite many attempts made by Dr.Kalaignar. The irony is that the temple was built by King Rajaraja Cholan. But his statue was not allowed inside the temple. But Dr.Kalaignar did not relent. He said if you don't allow installation of the statue within the temple, I will set up the statue outside the temple. He successfully set up the statue outside the temple.

Dr.Kalaignar organized celebrations for the 1000th year of King Rajarajan and attended the function in a silk dhoti.

I am really proud to inform you that the DMK Government added such fame to the Thanjai Big Temple, Mamannan Rajarajan and the town Thanjavur.

Thanjai is synonymous with the river Cauvery. When the Cauvery became a contentious issue in 1970, it was Dr.Kalaignar who first placed the demand for setting up the Cauvery Water River Tribunal. He also had a resolution passed in this connection, in the Assembly in 1971. In continuation of this, Dr.Kalaignar insisted upon Thiru.V.P.Singh, when he was the Prime Minister, to set up the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal in 1990. Dr.Kalaignar also brought the interim order of the Tribunal, quantifying the amount of Cauvery water for Tamil Nadu. Dr.Kalaignar also took steps to set up a Monitoring Committee in 1997 and succeeded in it. Dr.Kalaignar was successful in setting up the Monitoring Committee, when the late Vajpayee was the Prime Minister of the Country.

The final verdict of the Tribunal was announced in 2007 when Dr.Kalaignar was the Chief Minister of the State. I would like to remind you that it was the DMK which succeeded in getting the rights for Tamil Nadu over the Cauvery. You had also not forgotten this. In continuation of this record, this mammoth function is organized here.

We planned to organize the function with about one lakh people. Though we kept the dreaded Corona under control in the State, it is spreading in different names in other States and other countries. Though the disease reached its peak in many countries, we wanted to take measures to ensure that such a situation does not occur in Tamil Nadu. So I invited Thiru.K.N.Nehru and Thiru. Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi two days back, consulted higher officials and the Thanjavur District Collector and

asked them whether it was necessary to organize the function at this juncture. They all said that since 22,000 beneficiaries were to benefit, more than a lakh people would assemble for the function. A big shamiana has also been erected to provide social distance. But as the incidence of the disease has started increasing, we thought of postponing the function. The organizers said that they had decided to follow the guidelines for Corona, give assistance to 5,000 beneficiaries and conduct the function.

I am saying this here because we had intimated 22,000 people. They should not be disappointed as only 5,000 beneficiaries would be given the assistance at the venue of the function. The rest of the beneficiaries will be given the assistance at their doorstep by officials. For this, the District Collector has nominated officials. I assure you with confidence that these officials will hand over the assistance to you in person.

When I arrived at Thanjavur last evening, I invited the District Collector and some officials and enquired about some details. I asked them whether they had invited farmers for talks. What was the main problem of farmers, I asked. The reply given by the officials was satisfying and I would like to share the details with you.

The Kuruvai crop has been planted in about 1,66,135 acres, a record after 48 years, that is, after 1973.

Our Kuruvai target was 1,06,250 acres. But this year we brought more land into cultivation and exceeded the target.

You should not forget that it was because of the Government's action that we were able to exceed the target. You should know that for exceeding the target, we had taken many steps. Normally, the Mettur Reservoir would be opened for Kuruvai cultivation on June 12. But it was not possible in the last few years due to unforeseen circumstances. The situation of not opening the reservoir on the scheduled date continued. But after we came to power, the reservoir was opened on June 12 for Kuruvai cultivation.What is more important is that before opening the Reservoir,

- We planned to expedite the de-silting of delta areas. We planned the de-silting operations so that water reached the tail-end areas.
- We announced a package scheme for Kuruvai cultivation. We gave subsidized fertilizer and seeds on 50 per cent subsidy.

All these measures helped us fix a higher target for Kuruvai cultivation. Now we are marching towards victory within the first six months of our rule.

Not only that, the District Collector told me yesterday that the Samba/ Thaladi target for the year 2021-2022 is also going to be a record not achieved in the last 10 years. Paddy in the current Samba / Thaladi has to be cultivated in 3,42,973 acres as against the target of 3,12,599 acres.

With the object of laying the foundation for an agricultural revolution, our Government presented a separate budget for agriculture. I am happy to inform you that through that budget we will indeed create an agricultural revolution in Tamil Nadu.

Though the District Collector and other officials are there to meet the demands of the people, we have nominated specially

the Hon'ble Minister for School Education to have direct contact with the Government on the implementation of Government schemes, to consider people's demands and expedite their implementation.

Generally, it is not an easy task to work in other Districts. It is not possible for all to accomplish that. I would like to remind you that Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi had proved that he could successfully do that work. For that, I am duty bound to congratulate the Minister.

You all know the relationship between the Anbil family and the Kalaignar family. The relationship has been continuing for the last three generations. Anbil Dharmalingam was very close to Dr.Kalaignar, as was his son late Anbil Poyyamozhi to me. You all know how close the late Anbil Poyyamozhi was to me. In his place, his son Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi is achieving things. Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi is only executing the tasks that his grandfather and father were to do. I appeal to you to congratulate Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi through your enthusiastic clapping.

In those days, Anna used to say, 'Anbil is calling me'. Now, I have come to this function with a feeling that Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi is calling us. As soon as he was nominated for Thanjavur District, he toured the entire district and received petitions from people.

So far, we have received 48,550 petitions. I am happy that within these two months, solutions have been found for 50 per cent of the petitions, that is, for 22,997 petitions. The rest of the petitions are under consideration. Action will be taken on those petitions after careful consideration. I assure the petitioners that their demands will be met.

"We will do what we have said", these are Dr.Kalaignar's words. The present Government will do even what it has not promised. You are now practically seeing this.

Employees and workers of the Direct Purchase Centres (DPCs) of the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation in the Cauvery Delta Districts have been demanding an increase in their wages. The demands have been raised by various trade unions also, including by the Workers Progressive Unions. In this connection, Thiru. T.R.B.Rajaa also spoke in the Assembly. He even fought with the Minister concerned. Why, he even argued with me. The Minister concerned also spoke about the demands of the DPC workers. Considering their demands, I have given approval for increasing the monthly salary of record clerks to Rs. 5,285, for assistants and watchmen to Rs. 5,218 along in addition to dearness allowance of Rs. 3,499.

Moreover, I have given approval for increasing the charge payable to loadmen to Rs. 10 per bag as against the present charge of Rs. 3.25 per bag. Similarly, seasonal clerks and watchmen will be given travelling allowance. Due to this the Government would have to incur Rs. 83 crore additional expenditure. We have increased the wages with the intention that the DPCs function efficiently. The employees and workers should realize the good intention of the Government and work sincerely to bring more farmers to the centres for selling their paddy. I appeal to the employees of the Corporation to make sure that the farmers do not have any difficulty in selling their paddy at the centres.

We have come to power to redress the grievances of the people.

The present function has been organized not for us but for the people. On this day we are going to distribute welfare assistance to people. I would like to give the list of welfare measures.

Free House site pattas, old age pension, farmers Protection Scheme, jobs on compassionate grounds, new ration cards, PM's housing scheme, and new employment opportunities, Marriage assistance for poor women, sewing machines, PM's Fisheries resources development scheme, National development agriculture scheme, Medical insurance scheme, Dr.Muthulakshmi Reddy Maternity Assistance Scheme, National Food Security Scheme, Joint farming scheme, Dr.Kalaignar's rural integrated agriculture scheme, Directorate of Horticulture, Distribution of paddy harvesting machine, oil press machine, loans for Differently abled persons, loans through the Co-operative Department, and assistance through Labour Welfare Department. Totally, 44,525 beneficiaries have been provided assistance. I am really happy to see the smiles on the faces of beneficiaries. We have made arrangements to provide benefits to over 44,000 families.

For this, Rs. 238 crore has been allotted. This is not an end but only a beginning. I would like to assure you that similar assistance to people will continue.

Tamil Nadu is at the forefront in the development index. Our aim is to make Tamil Nadu number one in all fields. I would not say that we will complete the task by tomorrow itself. I am not a person who floats in dreams. To achieve any task we should fix the target. I have fixed the target. My aim is to make Tamil Nadu the premier State in the Country. For the achievement of this task,

people should co-operate. In achieving the task, the Government should provide all the requirements of the people.

On this occasion, I extend my appreciation and thanks to the Hon'ble Minister for School Education, Thiru. Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi and the MPs, MLAs, people's representatives, local body representatives and the people in this constituency, who stood with the Minister for organizing the function in a successful manner.

At this point, I have got to say that the Government is doing all that it can to accomplish this goal. Specifically, the amount of cooperation given by women Self-Help Groups, differently-abled persons, Government employees, teachers, and those expecting pensions, pattas, etc., will be reciprocated by this Government which will go above and beyond to fulfil their needs.

We aren't the ones who will go to rest after talking about all this. In Kalaignar's reign, what was said will be done. We have also been made such by Kalaignar. Hence, I want to say that I too shall follow his steps and my duties shall continue on and on. Once again, thank you all very much.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister visited the exhibition set up at the Mannar Saraboji Government Arts College. After that, he also visited the maintenance of the palm-leaf and paper manuscripts at the Saraswathi Mahal museum, Thanjavur.

Hon'ble Chief Minister leads from the front in measures against the Omicron virus

Corona preventive works were undertaken on a war footing after the Government headed by Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K. Stalin** took over office, making it possible for Tamil Nadu to come out of damages of the second wave of the virus.

Works connected with the prevention of the virus, upgrading of infrastructure in hospitals, ultra modern treatment to those affected by the virus and relief assistance to the families of frontline workers who had died due to the disease and to the general public are being undertaken in an excellent way.

In continuation of the above, the Hon'ble Chief Minister presented at the Secretariat on 08.12.2021 Rs. 50,000 each to the families of 10 persons in Chennai District who were affected and died of Corona virus. He also presented cheques

for Rs.25 lakh each to the families of 2 frontline workers of Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewarage Board as Corona relief assistance and

appointment orders to the heirs of the deceased on compassionate grounds.

A review meeting, headed by the Hon'ble Chief Minister was held at the Secretariat on 13.12.2021 regarding controlling of the spread of Corona, during the festival days, taking precautionary measures in view of Omicron spread in neighbouring states and expediting the vaccination drive.

Considering the spread of the mutated Corona-Omicron virus, the welfare of the people and by way of taking up steps to prevent Corona spread, orders were issued to extend the lockdown restrictions up to 31.12.2021.

In its statement issued on 14.12.2021, the Government of Tamil Nadu had announced that the Rs.50,000 Corona assistance to families where

Corona virus had claimed life could be obtained by online application, as a facility, by selecting the Ex-Gratia for Covid-19 link in the What's new option of the net portal < https://www.tn.gov.in.>

On 18.12.2021, the Hon'ble Chief Minister visited the Corona special camp, held at the upgraded primary health centre, Nandhivaram and reviewed measures being undertaken.

A review meeting, presided over by the Hon'ble Chief Minister was held at the Secretariat on 24.12.2021 to consider the preventive steps to be taken to arrest the Corona spread during the festival days. The Hon'ble Chief Minister appealed to people to follow the Corona prevention procedures without fail.

Keeping in mind medical experts' caution of the possibility of the virus spread increasing in view of the congregation of people in one place, the general public should avoid assembling in one place. Whenever people come out of the house, social distancing besides wearing a face mask should be followed without fail. People should visit vaccination camp and get vaccinated. He sought full

co-operation from the people to the steps taken by the Government to control the virus.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister undertook a field

inspection on 26.12.2021 of the precautionary measures being taken to prevent the spread of Omicron on 26.12.2021. He visited the oxygen production centre at the Rajiv Gandhi Government Hospital and reviewed the infrastructure facility provided

there to cure the Covid-19 affected patients. He inspected the emergency oxygen cylinder storage facility at the DMS complex, Teynampet and the ‘108’ ambulance vehicles fitted with emergency treatment equipment. He also reviewed the 24-hour emergency call centre, emergency control room and the State War Room.

In Government and private hospitals, 1.15 lakh beds have been kept ready as a precautionary measure to prevent the spread of the Omicron strain of the Corona virus. Further, steps are being taken to create a 50,000-bed facility in Covid special centres to meet needs as and when they arise.

To avoid oxygen shortage felt in the last Covid-19 wave, production of 244 metric tonnes of liquid oxygen per day through 222 oxygen production

centres in various hospitals has been arranged jointly by the State and Union Governments with the voluntary agencies. The storage facility to keep liquid oxygen has been strengthened to the level of storing 1,731 metric tonnes of liquid oxygen. Also, through 17,940 oxygen concentrators, 167 tons of liquid oxygen can be produced. Besides, 25,000 ‘B’ and ‘D’ type oxygen cylinders have also been

kept ready. To control the spread of Omicron type Corona, the RT-PCR testing and all other restrictions as guided by the Union Government are in place in all International Airports. Also, the Hon’ble Chief Minister has directed the publication in the media, bulletins of the details of the arrival of passengers from other countries and about the Omicron-related matter for people’s knowledge.

A consultative meeting was held at the Secretariat on 31.12.2021 with the Hon’ble Chief Minister presiding, regarding prevention of Corona virus spread and accelerating the vaccination work.

In people’s interest, lockdown restrictions have been extended up to 10.01.2022.

In his video speech on 01.01.2022, the Hon’ble Chief Minister said, “My 2022 New Year Greetings

to all of you. Our expectation and hope is that the year 2022 should be very good. To realize that, we should not forget the lessons we have received in the past years. We have come out of the first and second waves of Corona virus. In fact, while the second wave was in its peak, I took over the responsibility as not only your Chief Minister but for your welfare also. My first task was to control the second wave of Corona. Along with me, Ministers, many Departments like the Department of medical and family welfare, local administration, police and sanitary workers worked jointly. That experience cannot be forgotten. This helped us to control the second wave in a shorter time. The cooperation of the general public was also an important factor.

When vaccination camps were continued, you came for vaccination enthusiastically, placing faith in science. Your enthusiasm created a big awareness. That pushed up the statistics on the number of those vaccinated. The spread and mortality rate of Corona could be controlled greatly. I expect once again the same kind of cooperation from you in this New Year.

Corona has undergone many mutations. It is now spreading all over the world in the name of Omicron. Its spread is fast. So, we have to be somewhat more vigilant. Your Government, headed by me, is taking all required steps to control Omicron spread; there is enough infrastructure -facility to test those coming from other countries and states, testing facility for those exhibiting symptoms locally, oxygen, bed strength and medicines. Arrangements have been made to meet exigencies. So you need not fear at all. We need only your cooperation.

The Government has imposed some restrictions to prevent Omicron spread. That is for your protection. Follow these restrictions. You should compulsorily follow COVID Appropriate Behaviour – the practices you should adopt during the Corona period.

Please avoid events where people gather as a crowd. While going out for day-to-day work or for urgent needs, observe social distancing. Use sanitizer or wash your hands with soap thoroughly. Wear a face mask compulsorily. Don’t forget it. It is not only for your safety but also for the safety of those dependent on you.

Those who have not been vaccinated should get vaccinated without delay. Those who have been administered the first dose, get vaccinated for the second dose on the day given to you.

The Union Government has announced vaccination to the 15-18 age group from the month of January. The Tamil Nadu Government will implement it fully. If there is anyone in that age group in your household, take them to the vaccination camp and get them vaccinated. Medical experts say that even if the Omicron virus has infected a person, its impact will be very, very less on those who have got vaccinated fully (both the doses). So, those unvaccinated till now, should get vaccinated immediately. The physical welfare of each person of Tamil Nadu is very important to me, your Chief

Minister. That is why some restrictions have been imposed. I expect you, the people of Tamil Nadu, to extend co-operation. I humbly request you, not only as your Chief Minister but as a beloved sibling and as one of you to follow without fail Government-announced standard operating procedures."

Extending New Year greetings once again, the Hon'ble Chief Minister wished the people happiness with safety.

On 03.01.2022, the Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurated a vaccination special camp for students in the age group 15-18 at the Chennai Girls Higher

Secondary School at Saidapet, Chennai and inspected.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister visited various parts of Chennai City on 04.01.2022 and distributed face masks to people as a Corona, Omicron virus spread prevention step and created awareness.

Other areas visited by the Hon'ble Chief Minister were the bus stop near Omandurar multi-purpose speciality hospital, near about Ritchie street and Cosmopolitan club, opposite Spencer Plaza, Thousand Lights area, Chepauk, Teynampet Siddhi Vinayagar Kovil Street, Eldams Road Traffic Signal, and the bus stop near SIET college. He distributed face masks to people there, talked about the need for wearing the mask and thus created awareness.

He visited the hospital with a 904-bed strength, being set up by the Greater Chennai Corporation at Chennai Trade Centre, Nandambakkam as a precautionary measure for the prevention of Corona and Omicron virus from spreading. Of the 904 beds, 504 are oxygen fitted and 400 are ordinary ones. He inspected and directed the staff to complete the works quickly.

At the Covid Treatment Centre being set up at Chennai Trade Centre, 2 Oxygen cylinders with a capacity of 11 kilo litres and other required basic facilities have been created.

On 06.01.2022, the Hon'ble Chief Minister flagged off at the Secretariat, the services of 42 special ambulance vehicles for transporting Covid-affected patients within the limits of the Greater Chennai Corporation.

The services of 250 car ambulances were made available for the use of people on 12.05.2021 to transport within Greater Chennai Corporation area, Corona virus-affected persons, first from their place of residence to the testing centres, and to Corona safety and treatment centres or hospitals after the tests. This pioneering scheme in India was started in the Chennai Corporation and was welcomed at the All India level. All other states implemented this scheme.

In his video conferencing review meeting with the Chief Ministers of states, the Hon'ble Prime Minister applauded the Government of Tamil Nadu and the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu for implementing effectively the car ambulance scheme.

On 08.01.2022, the Hon'ble Chief Minister undertook Corona awareness works while reviewing the performance of the fair price shop at Sathya Nagar area.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurated the Precautionary Dose scheme at M.R.C. Nagar on 10.01.2022 for health care workers, frontline workers and for the 60 plus age group people with co-morbidities. In the first phase, the precautionary dose is proposed to be administered to 2,06, 128 eligible health-care workers in the state, 92,816 frontline workers and 1,01,069 senior citizens with co-morbidity complaints.

On the same day, a consultative meeting was held at the Secretariat, with Hon'ble Chief Minister presiding, regarding preventive activities for Corona virus. On the advice of medical experts, extension of the ongoing lockdown up to 31.01.2022 was announced.

As a frontline worker himself, Hon'ble Chief Minister got administered the precautionary dose on 11.01.2022.

So far, 8,79, 84,156 persons have been vaccinated in Tamil Nadu; 23,34,845 students in the age group 15-18 have been vaccinated.

The social media post of the Hon'ble Chief Minister "As a frontline worker, I took the precautionary vaccination dose. All the frontline workers and senior citizens above 60 years of age with co-morbidity complaints should get vaccinated with the precaution dose. Let us save ourselves and the Country with the armour of vaccination".

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K. Stalin** received cheques from Thiru. Udhayanidhi Stalin, MLA to the face value of Rs.21,40,611 and Rs.13,55,349 being public collections for the Chief Minister's Public Relief fund for Corona relief. The first cheque is the contribution made by the people of Ariyalur District and handed over to the Hon'ble Minister for the welfare of backward classes. The second cheque is the donation given by different sections of the society to the MLA. The event took place at Kalaivanar Arangam on 06.01.2022.

Hon'ble Minister for Information and Publicity Thiru. M.P. Saminathan congratulated student Swega of Kasipalayam area, Erode District for getting selected to study in Chicago University, USA on free scholarship, on 25.12.2021.

Hon'ble Minister for Information and Publicity Thiru. M.P. Saminathan presented appointment orders at the Secretariat to the heirs of 4 persons of the Department of Stationery and Printing, who had died in harness, on compassionate grounds, on 11.12.2021.

Hon'ble Chief Minister's field work brings back normalcy to areas hit by heavy rains

Despite the unprecedented rains in Tamil Nadu, as the Government led by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M. K. Stalin**, has been operating on a war footing, the flood damages are being rapidly rectified. The Hon'ble Chief Minister has been visiting Chennai, Kanchipuram, Chengalpattu and various other Districts since the onset of heavy rains to inspect the affected areas and provide relief assistance to the affected people and expedite rehabilitation and relief work.

29.12.2021

Following this, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu wrote to the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Thiru. Narendra Modi, asking him to urge the Union Ministry of Home Affairs to release central assistance as soon as possible so that the affected people can recover from the ravages of the northeast monsoon and the damaged infrastructure in transportation, irrigation, education, etc., can be restored.

In his letter, the Hon'ble Chief Minister has said that after the unprecedented rains in Tamil Nadu during the northeast monsoon this year, the Government of Tamil Nadu has quickly revived the state to normalcy by carrying out relief work.

Referring to the Central Committee's survey of Tamil Nadu on 21.11.2021 to assess the damage caused by heavy rains, the Hon'ble Chief Minister in his letter has said that the Government of Tamil Nadu had requested the Union Government to release Rs. 1,510.83 crore for temporary rehabilitation works in Tamil Nadu and Rs. 4,719.62 crore for permanent restoration of damaged infrastructure like roads, bridges, public buildings etc. He has also said that three memoranda seeking relief assistance have been submitted on 16.11.2021, 25.11.2021 and

15.12.2021, by the Government of Tamil Nadu to the Union Government.

Also, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu inspected the ongoing rainwater drainage works being carried out at a cost of Rs. 2.52 crore at Jawahar Nagar in the Kolathur Assembly Constituency.

30.12.2021

After attending Government functions in Thanjavur and Tiruchirapalli, the Hon'ble Chief Minister, upon returning to Chennai, inspected the clearing of stagnant rain water in the areas affected by the heavy rainfall in Chennai, at the control room in the Greater Chennai Corporation Ripon building at midnight.

In the control room, during the inspection, he asked the officers about the complaints regarding rainwater stagnation received from the public, and the action taken in this regard. Additionally, he asked about complaints received by the other service Departments involved in the work, including the Police Department, Fire Services Department, Tamil Nadu Water supply ¬and drainage board, and the Electricity Department. He inquired of the officials about the actions taken on their Departmental complaints.

Subsequently, the Hon'ble Chief Minister inquired in detail of the Commissioner of Greater Chennai Corporation, the Deputy Commissioners, Regional Deputy Commissioners and Chief

Engineers, about the works of removing rain water carried out in various parts of the city and the motor pumps used to do the work and directed the officers to use the number of such pumps needed to immediately drain out stagnant water.

Later, he inspected the clearing work done using motor pumps at the Poonamallee High road

(Royapuram Zone) and at Sydenhams Road (Periamet) where there is waterlogging near the mosque and also at the Prakasam Road junction (Parrys Corner).

The Hon'ble Chief Minister asked them to remove stagnant water on bridges to avert traffic jams, extend the time of train and bus services, and ensure uninterrupted power supply. He also asked all

the Departments to work together.

31.12.2021

The Chief Minister inspected the stagnant rainwater clearing works at Seethammal Colony, Teynampet Zone which comes under the Greater Chennai Corporation. He also inspected at Dr. Giriappa road the work of draining the stagnant water into the Mambalam Canal, carried out using Poclain machines. He also inspected such works being done at the junction of Thirumalai Pillai Road and Bazullah Road in Kodambakkam Zone using tractors fitted with water pumps.

The interview was given by the Chief Minister to the media while inspecting the areas affected by the floods caused by rains.

Question: Chennai has experienced unexpected heavy rainfall, what do you say about it?

Answer: The Meteorological Department usually makes a forecast and provides information. But, this time they could not predict. So unexpectedly there was very heavy rain. Therefore. intending to somehow get the stagnant rainwater drained, after coming to Chennai from Tiruchi, I went straight to the war room set up at Ripon Building, Greater Chennai Corporation, to discuss what action had been taken and what had been done. In the affected areas where there is water stagnation, rainwater is being removed

using motor pump sets. This work has given some satisfactory results. For sure, by today everything will be fixed.

Question: Is there any problem for the Regional Meteorological Centre in giving prior weather forecasts, when there are unprecedented rains? Will there be any request to the Union Government to replace the equipment?

Answer: That's the work they have to do. However, as you have said, the Government of Tamil Nadu will remind the Union Government about this.

Question: Was there any issue in the planning to eliminate waterlogging?

Answer: The AIADMK Government had ruined it [the system] over the past 10 years. We are not prepared to criticise them now. We have to clear the stagnant water. I am confident we will set it right before the next monsoon. Work is going on in this regard. The information given by the Regional Meteorological Department says that various parts of Chennai received more than 20 cm of rain. Every official is working overtime to restore normalcy. I am also directly inspecting and monitoring the relief works. The situation will become normal soon.

The social media post of the Hon'ble Chief Minister.

The weather forecasts failed to predict the heavy downpour. Besides flooding in many areas due to the unprecedented heavy rains, traffic congestion is also there. Upon my return from Tiruchi, I visited the control room at the Greater Chennai Corporation Office, inspected the measures being taken and provided guidance to the officers. The situation will become normal soon. I urge the public to plan their journey carefully and adhere to the guidelines for the rainy season.

01.01.2022

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu requested the Hon'ble Union Home Minister Thiru. Amit Shah to improve the functioning of the Regional Meteorological Centre, Chennai. In his letter, he says,

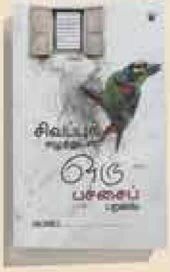
"As you are aware, the State Government relies substantially on alerts issued by the Indian Meteorological Centre (IMC), Chennai for gearing up the administration to handle impending disaster situations arising out of intense rainfall. A timely alert from IMC helps the State and District Administration to take up pre-emptive efforts to ensure the safety of people. We have, however, noted that IMC is unable to predict the red alert situation sufficiently in advance, giving hardly any time". The IMC, in a bulletin at 12 noon on December 30, had only predicted thunderstorms with moderate rainfall at a few places over coastal Tamil Nadu and thunderstorms with moderate rain in Villupuram, Cuddalore and Delta Districts, while predicting thunderstorms with light to moderate rain in some areas of Chennai. At 3.40 pm, the IMC issued a Nowcast Warning stating that thunderstorms with light to moderate rain would occur at isolated places over a few Districts including Chennai, Tiruvallur, Kancheepuram and Chengalpattu Districts for the next 1-2 hours. Meanwhile, rains started lashing Chennai and its suburbs from the afternoon that lasted till late at night. At 4.15 pm, the IMC issued an Orange alert. By this time, there was high-intensity heavy downpour all over Chennai, Tiruvallur, Kancheepuram and Chengalpattu Districts resulting in the inundation of many places and total disruption of traffic in the city.

The shortcoming in the capability of IMC to provide accurate real-time rainfall forecasting in instances like this prevents the state and district administration from taking up timely mobilization of an emergency management system. This results in total disruption of normal life, movement of health care support systems and also causes loss of lives and damage to critical infrastructure.

Such incidents highlight the need for making additional investments in advanced weather prediction mechanisms and upgradation of technology being used in IMCs. In this regard, I request the Government of India to do the needful to enhance the capacity of IMC, Chennai to enable it to make predictions of high alert situations earlier and notify the same to the State Government well in time".

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M. K. Stalin** presided over a meeting with a committee headed by Thiru. V Thiruppugazh, I.A.S. (Retd) to devise flood mitigation plans and long-term plans for water management, at the Secretariat, on 03.01.2022.

Felicitation to Sahitya Akademi award winners



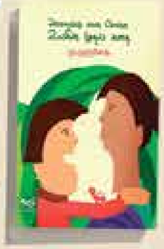
My felicitations to writer Ambai, who won the Sahitya Akademi Award for her collection of short stories 'Sivappu Kazhuthudan Oru Pachai Paravai'.

I welcome the fact that after many years a woman Tamil writer has won the Sahitya Akademi Award. The Award will enthuse women writers.

My felicitation to Kavignar M.Murugesh, whose creation- 'Ammavukku Magal Sonna Ulagin Mudhal Kathai' won the Bala Sahitya Puraskar Award. This Award will enthuse more and more such works for children

-Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K.Stalin's** social media post

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K.Stalin** greeted Kavignar M.Murugesh, who won the Bala Sahitya Puraskar Award, when the latter met the Hon'ble Chief Minister, along with his family at the Secretariat on 03.01.2022.



Hon'ble Chief Minister greets girl for her Guinness Record in Hula Hoop Rotations

Little girl B.Sahana, who set up a Guinness Record in Hula Hoop Rotations met the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K.Stalin** and got his blessings at the Secretariat on 23.12.2021.

Hon'ble Chief Minister appreciates the man who rescued an injured monkey

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K.Stalin** invited Thiru. M.Prabhu to the Secretariat on 17.12.2021 and felicitated him. Thiru. Prabhu saved an injured monkey found on the roadside at Odhiyam Samathuvapuram in Perambalur District by giving the animal first aid.

Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurates Rs.99 crore Kalaignar Memorial Library in Madurai

It is not an exaggeration to say that Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar stamped his personality on the history of Indian politics continuously for about a century. He served in public life for about 80 years and strode like a hurricane for over 50 years in the Assembly and contested the Assembly elections 13 times and succeeded every time. He was in the Chief Minister's post for 5 times and created many records in his life and attained immortal fame.

Dr. Kalaignar was a writer, poet, theatre artist, playwright, journalist, creator, politician and an administrator. He stamped his class in all fields which he had touched. To proclaim his fame, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M.K.Stalin, on Dr.Kalaignar's 97th birth anniversary on 03.06.2021, said that Dr. Kalaignar, who was fond of reading books throughout his life, inaugurated the most modern Arignar Anna Centenary Library in the year 2010, on the 102th birth anniversary of Arignar Anna at Kotturpuram in Chennai. This library serves as a lighthouse for people of all walks of life and all sections of society. The Hon'ble Chief Minister said that in a similar manner, for the benefit of people in other parts of the State, the Government decided to set up a library in memory of Dr. Kalaignar in Madurai on over 2 lakh sq.ft with modern facilities.

In continuation of the announcement, the Hon'ble Chief Minister laid the foundation stone for the Kalaignar Memorial Library through video conferencing at the Secretariat on 11.01.2022. The Kalaignar Memorial Library will be spread over 2.13 lakh sq.ft on 2.70 acres of land at a cost of Rs.99 crore at Pudhunatham Road in Madurai, with 8 floors including basement.

The State Government has already sanctioned Rs. 10 crore for purchase of books, e-books, internet periodicals and research books, besides Rs. 5 crore for technical equipment.

This library will serve as a beacon of knowledge for students, educationists, research scholars, litterateurs and those preparing for competitive examinations.

December 23 : National Farmers Day

Will always work to Protect the welfare of Farmers

Farmers, the pivot of the world as identified by Ayyan Thiruvalluvar are the ones who today show the strength of democracy to the world.

We will protect the welfare of farmers forever even as they protect their crops.

Let us greet farmers and assure them of our support.

-Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K. Stalin**

Hon'ble Chief Minister distributes agricultural kits with implements

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K. Stalin** distributed at the Secretariat on 24.12.2021, agricultural kits to the families of 5 farmers to mark the inauguration of the distribution of such kits to 64,444 agriculturist families at a total cost of Rs. 15 crore. Each kit contains a crowbar, an iron pan, a weeder, a spade and two sickles.

The kits are given to farmers at 75 per cent subsidy/not exceeding Rs. 2,250 and to those belonging to Adi Dravidar and Scheduled Tribe communities at 90 per cent subsidy/not exceeding Rs.2,700. This scheme will increase work efficiency and productivity will increase.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister also presented appointment orders to 10 persons as a mark of presenting such orders to heirs of 87 staff of the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare who had died in harness, on compassionate grounds, to posts of junior assistant, laboratory assistant, typist and office assistant.

Also, by way of inaugurating the schemes for setting up of solar camp dryers, solar electric fencing, solar pump sets and distribution of value adding machines for agricultural produce, at an estimate of Rs. 9.24 crore and benefiting 672 farmers, the Hon'ble Chief Minister distributed the articles to 9 farmers. The schemes are implemented by the Department of Agricultural Engineering.

News in Picture

Hon'ble Minister for Information and Publicity Thiru. M.P. Saminathan chaired a meeting with the Members of Tamil Film Producers Association on 26.12.2021.

News in Pictures

Medallists and participants of the 64th National Rifle competitions met Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K. Stalin** and received his blessings at the Secretariat on 27.12.2021.

New initiative of Information and Public Relations Department to improve functioning further

As directed by Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru.M.K. Stalin**, a review and consultative meeting with the zonal joint directors of the Department of Information and Public Relations, was held on 28.12.2021 at the conference hall of the State Information Bureau at Kalaivanar Arangam. Hon'ble Minister for Information and Publicity Thiru. M.P. Saminathan presided over the meeting. The meet considered the execution of the Department's various announcements.

In his presidential address, the Hon'ble Minister for Information and Publicity said the Department was doing well the task of carrying to the people the Government's schemes with the approval of the Hon'ble Chief Minister. To improve it further, 6 zonal Joint Directors had been appointed as a new initiative of the Department. They will keep in touch with the staff of the District Information and Public Relations Department in their zone and review their works, co-ordinate Hon'ble Chief Minister's functions and the works of Government events in which Ministers participate, undertaking periodical tours for media persons Department-wise, particularly ensuring that people benefit by their visits to Manimandapams and Memorials, monitoring the activities of the ultra-modern LED Vans used in field works and increasing the subscribers for Tamilarasu magazine. The Hon'ble Minister said that they should work with dedication in carrying information about the various schemes of the Government to people even in the remotest parts, especially the schemes that have been introduced by the Hon'ble Chief Minister and have become very popular – 'Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam' and 'Illam Thedi Kalvi'.

Book on Computer Tamil growth and challenges

The Tamil Virtual Academy, formerly known as Tamil Virtual University, taking into consideration the change in the educational environment, propagates Tamil language throughout the world through the internet. It also designs new Tamil software periodically and allows these software for public use by allowing free download.

The Tamil Virtual Academy introduced Tamil in computers to take up various works related to computers, by taking into consideration the change in educational environment besides collecting the best research articles presented in the international conference on 'Book on Computer Tamil Growth and challenges', conducted by the Academy with the help of students, teachers, research scholars, technical experts and computer professors. The collected articles from the conference have been published in 2 volumes with international standard book number and were released by the Hon'ble Minister for Information Technology, Thiru.T. Mano Thangaraj on 24.12.2021.

For the benefit of various Universities, students, colleges, researchers and analysts, these two volumes, 'Book on Computer Tamil Growth and challenges' have been uploaded as e-books in the site of the Tamil Virtual University. These two volumes can be freely downloaded from the portal www.tamilvu.org. These e-books are also available free of cost in all Universities and Colleges in which Computer Tamil Peravai functions.

Online painting contest on Kuraloviyam in Thirukkural

The Tamil Virtual Academy, functioning under the Department of Information Technology, has the primary task of teaching Tamil through the internet. The Academy is also propagating Tamil culture, grammar and literature through the Internet. It is to organize a Painting Contest on the subject, 'Kuraloviyam in Ulaga Podhumarai Thirukkural'. Hon'ble Minister for Information Technology Thiru. T. Mano Thangaraj inaugurated the online contest on 22.12.2021.

February 1 : Birth Anniversary of Omandur Ramaswamy Reddiar

A friend of farmers

"The common people think of Omandurar as one among them as such is his dress, deportment and attitude. He was a simple and sweet person, a friend of poor people and a friend of farmers. He wanted to develop agriculture in a scientific manner. In 1934 itself he fought against casteism and led a rally of Adi Dravidas into temples at Chidambaram and Omandur. He participated in the Quit India movement and suffered imprisonment at Vellore, Tiruchi and Thanjavur for 15 months. Let us cherish his memory".

- Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar

Omandur Ramaswamy Reddiar was born in Omandur village near Tindivanam in 1895.He involved himself in India's Freedom Movement at a young age. He was the Chief Minister of Madras Presidency from March 23, 1947 to April 6, 1949. During his tenure he abolished Zamindari Inam, took stern action against corruption and imposed prohibition. The Hindu Religious and Endowments Act and Devadasi Dedication Abolition Act were introduced during his period.

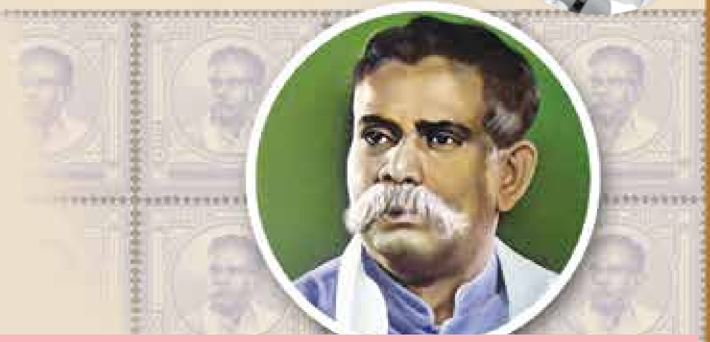
February 7 : Birth anniversary of Devaneya Pavaanar

★ Muthamizh Arignar Dr.Kalaignar nominated Devaneya Pavaanar as the Director of Tamil Etymological Project in 1974.

★ Dr.Kalaignar nationalized the literary works and books of Devaneya Pavaanar in 1996 and a royalty of Rs. 20 lakh was given for that.

★ He was instrumental in bringing out a commemorative stamp in honour of Devaneya Pavaanar in 2006.

★ Dr.Kalaignar also declared open a Manimandapam for Devaneya Pavaanar on 30.10.2007 and appointed Pavaanar's grand daughter Tmt. Paripurinam as the guardian of the Manimandapam.



Devaneya Pavaanar was born on February 7, 1902 in Gomathi Muthupuram at Sankarankovil. A great scholar in Tamil, he did research in over 40 languages and their words. He supported Maraimalai Adigal for his Pure Tamil Movement. Considering his Tamil knowledge and his proficiency in other languages, Perunchitaranar called him "Mozhignayiru Devaneya Pavaanar." He was of the firm opinion that the Tamil language was the oldest language of the world and other languages are derived from Tamil.

February 18: Birth anniversary of Sindhanai Sirpi Singaravelar

He popularized the self-respect movement and egalitarianism in the way that people of this Country accepted them. He made the economic ideas of Marxism intelligible to the people : the credit for these must go to Sindhanai Sirpi Singaravelar. Comrade Singaravelar strove hard for the growth of the self-respect movement. No supporter of the self-respect movement can forget that.

- Perarignar Anna

Sindhanai Sirpi M. Singaravelar was born in Chennai on February 18, 1860. He was a great lawyer, trade union leader and freedom fighter. Mylapore Singaravelar was responsible for propagating communism among the lower strata of people and came to be called "Sindhanai Sirpi" for this.

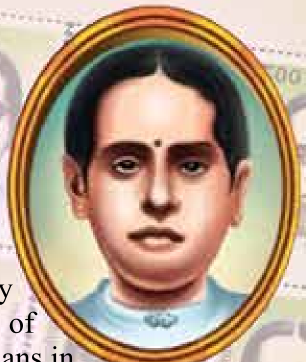
February 19 : Birth anniversary of U.Ve.Saa.

A titan who restored its literary treasures to Tamil

Uthamadhanapuram Venkatasubbiyar Saaminathan is popularly known as U.Ve.Saa. among the Tamil people. He was born at Uthamadhanapuram in Thanjavur District on February 19, 1855. Because of his services to the Tamil language, he is called ‘Tamil Thaatha’. He was a great scholar and researcher whose singular efforts for over five decades brought to light many literary works in Tamil and contributed vastly to the enrichment of its literary heritage. He retrieved Tamil literary works from the brink of extinction and republished them. His contribution to the Tamil language in the beginning of 20th Century is significant. By his publishing activity, he established the antiquity of Tamil literature and its literary wealth. U.Ve.Saa. not only reprinted more than 90 books but also collected over 3,000 old manuscripts.

February 22 : Birth anniversary of Thillaiyadi Valliyammai

A selfless girl who inspired Gandhiji



Thillaiyadi Valliyammai was born in South Africa on February 22, 1898, to a couple belonging to Thillaiyadi in Mayiladuthurai District, who migrated to Johannesburg in South Africa. The migrant couple was doing a small business in the city. At that time, the British Government of South Africa announced that any marriage that was not conducted in churches or according to the marriage law of South Africa, would be held null and void, which disproportionately affected Indians in South Africa. The Government’s announcement was opposed by Indians in South Africa and they lodged strong protests. In addition, they also opposed taxes levied on Indians. Valliyammai, who participated in the agitations against the South African white regime was arrested and lodged in jail in December 1913. Though she was released from jail, Valliyammai refused to come out. She was released only after the taxes on Indians were withdrawn. Mahatma Gandhi has written that it was “Valliyammai with her spirit of selfless sacrifice for the nation who first inspired him to fight for freedom.”

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